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John Amery, F.S.A.

21851

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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and dates, which appears to be a record of some kind. The names are written in a cursive script, and the dates are in a standard font. The list is organized into two columns, with names on the left and dates on the right. The names are: John, Mary, James, Elizabeth, Thomas, and Sarah. The dates are: 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, and 1795. The list is followed by a section of text that is also written in cursive. This text appears to be a description of the events that took place during the year 1790. It mentions that John and Mary were married on January 1st, and that they had a son named James on March 1st. It also mentions that Elizabeth and Thomas were married on May 1st, and that they had a daughter named Sarah on July 1st. The text ends with a signature and the date 1795.





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John Amery, F.S.A.

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Drawn by W. J. Loomis

Approved by Edw. A. M.  
of the National Academy of Sciences

Alexander Graham Bell

March 10, 1877

THE  
**HUNTINGDON PEERAGE;**  
COMPRISING A  
DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE EVIDENCE AND PROCEEDINGS  
CONNECTED WITH THE  
**Recent Restoration of the Earldom;**  
TOGETHER WITH THE  
REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:  
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED  
A GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY  
OF THE  
**ILLUSTRIOUS HOUSE OF HASTINGS,**  
INCLUDING  
A MEMOIR OF THE  
**PRESENT EARL AND HIS FAMILY.**

THE WHOLE INTERSPERSED  
WITH A VARIETY OF CURIOUS HISTORICAL AND LEGAL MATTER; AND SEVERAL  
ORIGINAL LETTERS, AND INCIDENTAL ANECDOTES, OF DISTINGUISHED  
INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED.

---

BY HENRY NUGENT BELL, ESQ.  
STUDENT OF THE INNER-TEMPLE.

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*IN VERITATE VICTORIA.*

Plague of your policy!  
You sent me Deputy to Ireland.  
SHAKSPEARE'S HENRY VIII.

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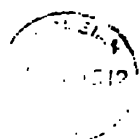
SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS.

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LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR BALDWIN, CRADOCK, AND JOY, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

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1821.



C. Baldwin, Printer,  
New Bridge-Street, London.



*To the Right Honourable*  
**The Earl of Huntingdon,**  
*J.H.S. W.O.R.H.,*  
*Comprehending a Genealogical and Biographical History*  
*Of the Illustrious House, from which he is descended,*  
*And an Account of his own happy Restoration*  
*To the Possession of its Ancient Dignities,*  
*Is inscribed,*  
*As a Tribute of Respect towards himself,*  
*And a Memorial to his Lordship's Posterity,*  
*By Him,*  
*Whose professional Exertions fortunately succeeded*  
*In reviving, in his Lordship's Person, the*  
**Earldom of Huntingdon,**  
*Deemed extinct for a period of nearly Thirty Years;*  
*And who has the honour to subscribe himself*  
*His Lordship's devoted Friend,*  
*And faithful Servant,*

*Henry Nugent Bell.*





P R E F A C E  
TO  
THE SECOND EDITION.

---

IN complying with the public demand for a Second Edition of "*The Huntingdon Peerage*," the expression of my warmest thanks is emphatically due for the very indulgent reception the work has met; a reception as complimentary to me in my incidental character of author, as the establishment of the claim itself had in the first instance been considered honourable to my conduct as an advocate. The narrative of my professional exertions has been read and estimated in the same spirit of candour with which it was written; and a highly respectable portion of the critical press\* of the country has recorded an unsolicited and uninterested verdict in my favour. All this I confess is greatly gratifying to me, and has a deep claim on my most cordial acknowledgements, which, I beg, may be accepted wherever they are due, without more particular specification. But as a more substantial proof of my sentiments of gratitude, and from a desire to render my book still more worthy of the place which has been assigned to it, as a legal and literary production, I have, at very considerable pains and expense, enriched the present edition with some additional embellishments, which I trust will be found, in no small degree, curious and interesting, as connected with the historical portion of the work. The portraits of Jane Shore and Lady Jane Grey can never be regarded

\* See British Critic, Edinburgh Monthly Review, Literary Gazette, Gentleman's Magazine, &c.

## P R E F A C E.

without awakening sympathetic recollections of the sufferings of those unfortunate persons ; and that of Henry Hastings of Woodlands, embodying Lord Shaftesbury's singular description of that eccentric character, must prove of peculiar value to the antiquarian, whose researches are directed to the illustration of early manners. With respect to the introduction of my own, it will be, *primâ facie*, obvious that I had no personal vanity to gratify by publishing my face ; but I may be fairly forgiven the ambition of occupying an humble niche in a temple of my own raising. There is, moreover, as I take it, a certain curiosity in most minds to be, as it were, *ocularly* acquainted with,—to inspect with the naked eye,—individuals before seen only (to use Dryden's phrase) “ through the spectacles of books.” The present age is one of philosophy and occult calculation. Men are curious to discover and ascertain what precise quantity of nose, and height of forehead, go to constitute certain passions and capacities, and what conformation of mouth and eye is assigned to a peculiar temperament. This curiosity there can be no great harm in gratifying. It is not very unlike the itching one feels to see the countenance of a man or woman, with whose conversation one has been accidentally entertained for several hours in the dark,—in a mail coach at night, for example, to prevent evil inferences. Thus much for my own portrait. There is also added a Genealogical Table, of the omission of which, in the First Edition, many purchasers complained. On the whole, I flatter myself, that these several embellishments will add to the intrinsic value of the book, and, at the same time, as they are given altogether gratuitously, prove, at least, my grateful sense of the public favour with which the work has been honoured.

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## P R E F A C E.

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**A**MONG the fugitive subjects, which come occasionally under the public eye, there are none, perhaps, more generally interesting, and which it is more necessary and useful to embody into a durable record, than those which involve claims of right, and decisions of legal authority thereupon. Such decisions become in fact incorporated with our system of jurisprudence, and stand as landmarks and auxiliaries to guide and aid the sound administration of justice. It is therefore of material importance that all causes, remarkable for their novelty, magnitude, and special interest, should be deposited among the archives of legal experience in a distinct and permanent form, and authentic in substance, so as to facilitate every purpose of future reference either for curiosity or use. If considerations of this general nature had not operated as sufficient incentives with me to undertake the compilation and arrangement of the materials which constitute the following pages, I had the superadded inducement supplied by the advice and sanction of several gentlemen eminent at the bar, who were of opinion that such a publication was highly desirable, and could not fail to prove peculiarly useful

and satisfactory to every senator and lawyer, as well as acceptable to the superior ranks of the public at large. Besides, having myself conducted the proceedings from the commencement, and, in fact, staked my professional judgment and fortunes on the result, I confess I experience a kind of paternal gratification, and feel that I satisfy a final sentiment of duty, in thus, as it were, putting the last hand to a work, which, if I had not prosecuted *con amore*, rather than by the ordinary gradations of practice, could never have been brought to so speedy and triumphant a termination. In adjusting the plan of the present publication, it has appeared advisable to numerous friends of the parties, to whose judgment I willingly bow, that I should deviate somewhat from the usual form of mere law reports, so as to produce a kind of *Huntingdoniana*—a book of general reference for every thing that concerns the history and restored succession of the ancient and illustrious House of Hastings. With this view the narrative of my proceedings, and the Report of his Majesty's Attorney-General on the occasion, are preceded by a genealogical account of the noble family in question, re-composed from the most authentic sources, and more correct and copious, it is presumed, than has yet appeared; together with a memoir of the present Earl, and the branch from which he is descended. In this division of my task, I have endeavoured, as often as the subject permitted, to ingraft the dignity and moral uses of biographical composition on the naked stock of pedigree, which (to appropriate, by an easy transition, the dramatic rule of Horace to my purpose) “may sometimes raise her voice,” and assume a character much

## PREFACE

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more important and instructive than the mere calendar of names and issue. I have moreover interwoven such papers, deemed interesting, either by their connexion direct or collateral with the subject, or by their antiquity as illustrative of early manners, as I had collected during my search among the ancient records of the kingdom; together with some documents of modern date, which are calculated to throw light on my noble client's claim, the steps by which it has been fortunately substantiated, and the unfair and mysterious means which prevented his Lordship's regular accession to the honours and estates of his ancestors. All these matters will, I trust, be found sufficiently relevant and interesting to justify their introduction in a compilation of this nature; but the part, which I feel will require most apology, is that which relates to myself personally, and my exertions on the occasion. And here again I must shelter myself under the authority and opinion of the respected friends before alluded to, who have advised, that every particular should be preserved appertaining to the prosecution of a claim, the establishment of which in so comparatively short a period, without reference to the House of Lords, and after the title had lain nearly thirty years in abeyance, has been regarded as a remarkable instance of successful practice, and, if I mistake not, without precedent in the annals of restored Peerages. On this score, with whatever sentiment of complacency the conscientious discharge of my duty, its victorious result, and the indulgent approbation of my friends, may have inspired me, (and far from dissembling, I

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MEMOIRS,  
GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL,  
OF  
*The House of Hastings,*  
EARLS OF HUNTINGDON,  
&c. &c.

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CHAPTER I.

FROM ROBERT DE HASTINGS, LORD OF FILLONGLEY, THE FIRST OF WHOM MENTION IS  
MADE IN THE FAMILY PEDIGREE, DOWN TO SIR LEONARD DE HASTINGS.

**ALTHOUGH** we have the happiness to live in an enlightened age and free country, in which private worth and public services are justly held ennobling beyond the brightest “boast of heraldry,” yet the pride of ancestry, common to nations and individuals, and which seems to be inherent in the human mind, can never cease to be a laudable passion, so long as it operates in its original and legitimate sphere, not as the silly inflation of overweening worthlessness and imbecility of character, but as a generous stimulus to emulation in those honourable pursuits and virtuous actions which, in themselves, primitively conferred social distinction, and still constitute the sublimer nobility of mind. The ancient family of Hastings, whose hereditary dignities, extinct or suspended for



nearly thirty years, have been again providentially restored, was not merely noble by descent, and allied to royalty, but distinguished, during several reigns, as much for wisdom in the cabinet, and incorruptible loyalty, as renowned for bravery in the field. Robert de Hastings, Portgreve of Hastings, in Sussex, from which town, according to Blomfield,\* the family surname is derived, and the lastage of which they farmed for a considerable time of the Crown, is the first person of whom mention is made in the pedigree, where he is further described as Lord of Fillongley, in Warwickshire, and Dispensator, or Steward, to William the Conqueror. The conclusion of this monarch's reign in September, 1087, proves that this Robert de Hastings, the first on record, and ostensible root of the family, flourished towards the close of the eleventh century.

Walter de Hastings, successor to Robert, lived under the reign of Henry the First, namely, between the years 1100 and 1135, to which Prince he was Steward, as owner of the manor of Ashele, or Ashill, in Norfolk, which he held by grand serjeanty, viz. "to take care of the naperie† at the coronation." Walter and his wife Hadewgre, or Hawise, granted, or rather confirmed, a former grant of Oldbury to the nunnery of Polesworth, in Warwickshire. By her he had issue one son, Hugh, his heir and successor.

Hugh de Hastings, of Fillongley, who succeeded his father as steward to Henry the First, married Erneburga, daughter of Hugh de Flamville, and niece and heir of Robert de Flamville, of Aston-Flamville in the county of Leicester, and with her had that manor and Gissing in Norfolk, together with the stewardship of the Abbey of St. Edmundsbury in Suffolk. Hugh de Flamville, in a confirmation made by himself and Ivetta d'Arches his wife, to Malton

\* See Blomfield's Norfolk.

† Naperie, i. e. table-linen.

Priory in Yorkshire, mentions his having given his sister Maud in marriage to Robert de Hastings. That this record has reference to a connexion between the two families antecedent to the aforesaid marriage of Hugh and Erneburga, and that the Robert here specified is the same person first mentioned in the pedigree, seem sufficiently evident; and therefore it would appear quite unnecessary to start any uncertainty on the occasion, by confounding the parties and supposing a mistake of their names, as some of the Peerages have done. However this may be, Hugh de Hastings, of whom we are treating, had, by his said wife Erneburga, two sons, William his heir, and Richard, Rector of Barnwell, in Liecestershire; and also a daughter, Mahant, espoused to Robert de Wyford, who had with her the manor of Anke, in Devonshire. From this marriage descended Sir Geoffery de Anke, or Hanke, who, in the reign of Henry the Third, conveyed that estate to Michael Davyle, in marriage with his daughter.

William de Hastings, eldest son of Hugh, was, by paternal inheritance, Steward to Henry the First, and Henry the Second, and also of the Abbey of St. Edmundsbury in right of his wife. He died in the year 1165, having had two wives, first, Maud, daughter of Thurstan Banaster, and widow of William Cumin, by whom he had two sons, Henry, his heir, who died without issue, and William, who, on his brother's death, succeeded to the family possessions; and secondly, Ida, daughter of Henry, Earl of Eu, by whom, also, he had two sons, Thomas, of whom hereafter, as ancestor to Francis, the tenth and late Earl of Huntingdon, and John, who, by his wife, had a son and heir called Henry.

William de Hastings, second son of the above William, by Maud, his first wife, succeeding, on the decease of his elder brother Henry, to the estate, married Margaret, daughter of Roger Bigod,

Earl of Norfolk, and by her had issue, Henry Lord Hastings, his heir, and one daughter, Ida, espoused to Stephen de Segrave. From this marriage are also said to be descended the proprietors of Elsing in Norfolk, and Fenwick in Yorkshire, who bore their paternal coat of arms of different colours from those used by the family of Huntingdon, viz. Or, a Maunch, Gules, but the same as borne by the Earls of Pembroke, of the name of Hastings.

Henry Lord Hastings succeeded the last mentioned William, and married Ada, fourth daughter of David Earl of Huntingdon, (by his wife Maud, eldest daughter of Hugh Earl of Chester, and co-heir with her brother Ranulph, successor to that title,) and sister and co-heir to John, surnamed Le Scot, Earl of Huntingdon and Chester. He died in the year 1250, leaving issue by the said Ada, another Henry, his heir, and two daughters, Margaret, and Hillaria, the latter of whom was the wife of Sir William Harcourt, ancestor of the present Earl Harcourt.

Henry Lord Hastings, second of that name, and only son and successor to the former, was knighted by Simon Montford, Earl of Leicester, and, adhering to that nobleman, and the other insurgent barons against Henry the Third, was by them appointed Governor of the Castles of Scarborough and Winchester in 1264, and of Kenilworth Castle, the following year. He married Joane, daughter of William, and sister and co-heir to George, de Cantalupe, Barons of Bergavenny, by whom he had issue three daughters, Audra, Lora, and Joan; and two sons, John his heir, and Edmund, who had summons to parliament, December 29, 1299, and afterwards in 1313—Contemporary with this Henry was David de Hastings, who inherited the Earldom of Athol in Scotland, from 1242 to 1269, in right of his wife Ferelith, daughter of Henry Earl of Athol, great-grandson of David the Seventh, King of Scotland. Ada, only daughter of this

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David, Earl of Athol, was married to John de Strathbogie, who, upon the decease of his father-in-law, without male issue, became successor to the title.

John de Hastings, eldest son of Henry, was Lord Hastings and Bergavenny, Seneschal of Aquitaine, and, in 1290, eighteenth of Edward the First, one of the competitors for the Crown of Scotland, in right of his grandmother, Ada aforesaid, daughter of David Earl of Huntingdon, brother to Malcolm the Fourth, and to William, styled the Lion, Kings of Scotland. He had summons to Parliament from 1295 to the time of his death, which happened on the ninth of March, 1312, the sixth of Edward the Second. He was twice married, first to Isabel, daughter of William, and sister and co-heir of Aymer, or Audomar, de Valence, Earls of Pembroke; and by her, who died October 3, 1305, and lies interred with him at the Grey Friars in Coventry, had issue two sons, John Lord Hastings and Bergavenny his heir, and Sir William de Hastings, whose three sons, John, Edmund, and Henry, were buried at Coventry; and three daughters, Jane wedded to William de Huntingfield, Elizabeth to Roger Lord Grey, of Ruthen, and Margaret. By Isabel, fifth daughter of Hugh Despencer, Earl of Winchester, his second wife, and who, after his decease, was married to Richard Mounthermer, with issue, he had two sons more, Sir Hugh and Thomas. Sir Hugh was of Gressing Hall and Fenwick, in Norfolk, in right of his wife Margaret, daughter and heir of Sir Richard Foliot, Knight. The male line of this Sir Hugh terminated about the reign of Queen Elizabeth, in the person of Sir Francis Hastings, of Stusthorpe, whose estate was divided among his four sisters and co-heirs, viz. Anne, espoused to John Wentworth, of North Elmshall, Esq.; Dorothy, to Sir William St. Quintin, of Harpham, in Yorkshire, Knt.; Christian, to Francis Frobisher, of Altaff Frobisher, Esq.; and Mary, to Philip Copley, of Doncaster, Esq.

John Lord Hastings, Bergavenny, and Weishford, eldest son of the preceding John, was Governor of Kenilworth Castle in 1323, and died in 1325. He married Julian, daughter of Thomas Leybourne, and Lady of Eltham, by whom he had issue Lawrence, an only son and heir, who succeeded him.

Lawrence Lord Hastings, Bergavenny, and Weishford, upon the death, without issue, of his grand uncle Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, before mentioned, was, by patent, dated October 13, 1339, thirteenth of Edward the Third, advanced to that dignity, in right of his grandmother Isabel, sister to Aymer. He married Agnes, daughter of Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, and, dying on the 30th of August, 1348, was interred in the priory of Bergavenny, leaving his estates and titles to John, his only son and heir, born after his death. His wife survived him till 1368, and was buried in the Minories Church, without Aldgate, London.

John, the said posthumous son, was second Earl of Pembroke, of the Hastings family, and had the dignity of Knight of the Garter conferred on him by Edward the Third. He served gallantly under Edward the Black Prince, and, during the wars of Aquitaine, the people having had large experience of his goodness, at their request, the King appointed him Lieutenant of that principality. In 1372, his Lordship, with forty ships under his command, was dispatched to succour the city of Rochelle, then closely besieged by the French army under Du Guesclin, on the land side, in concert with a naval force sent by Henry, King of Castile, to blockade the port by sea. When the Earl arrived, on Midsummer-eve, and was about to sail into port, he was unexpectedly and fiercely attacked by the Spanish squadron, commanded by Admiral Boccanegra, a Genoese, his fleet totally defeated after an engagement which lasted two days, and himself, with a great number of his inferior officers, made pri-

soner, and sent loaded with irons into Spain. The enemy set fire to all the English ships, and carried off a booty of 20,000 marks in money. Having remained four years in captivity, he was at length redeemed by the payment of a large ransom ; but, as if his earthly liberty had been purchased only to augment the triumph of a sterner and less exorable authority, he died, shortly after, on the 16th of April, 1375, the forty-ninth of Edward the Third, on the road from Paris to Calais, returning home, some suppose of the effects of a slow poison administered to him while in Spain. He had sepulture first at Hereford, but his remains were subsequently removed thence to the Grey Friars Church, in London. His Lordship was the first English subject who imitated Edward the Third in the quartering of arms, as may be seen in his escutcheon, on the north side of that monarch's tomb, at Westminster Abbey, upon which he bears, quarterly, Or, a Maunch, Gules, for Hastings ; and Barry of twelve pieces, Argent and Azure, an Orle of eight Martlets, Gules, for Valence. By his first wife, Margaret, fourth daughter of King Edward the Third, he had no issue ; but by his second marriage to Anne, daughter and heir of the renowned Sir Walter Manney, Knt. by his wife Margaret Brotherton, then Countess, and afterwards Duchess, of Norfolk, he had one only son, John, born during his father's imprisonment in Spain, and successor to all his dignities.

John, the second of that name, and third and last Earl of Pembroke, of the Hastings line, was a long time ward of the King, and at a proper age succeeded to the honours and possessions of the family. He married Philippa, daughter of Edmond Mortimer, Earl of March, but by her (who after his decease became successively the wife of Richard Fitzallan, Earl of Arundel, and of Thomas Poyning, Lord St. John of Basing, and, dying, was buried at the Priory of Boxgrave) had no issue. The manner of his Lordship's death,

which occurred in 1390, in the prime of manhood, was singularly melancholy, having, during a tournament at Woodstock, running tilt with Sir John St. John, received an accidental wound in the body, which unfortunately proved mortal. His untimely fate was deeply lamented, and a fine monument to his memory was erected in the church of the Grey Friars. Thus, in default of issue, the Earldom became extinct; but the titles of Lord Hastings, Bergavenny, and Weishford, together with the estates annexed thereto, devolved on Reginald Lord Grey, of Ruthen, in right of his grandmother, Elizabeth, who was second daughter of John de Hastings, Lord Bergavenny and Weishford, by Isabel, sister and co-heir of Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, and wife of Roger Lord Grey, of Ruthen, as before mentioned. This Reginald, it appears, afterwards sold the barony of Bergavenny to William Beauchamp. "It is reported," says one of the old chronicles, in the superstitious spirit of that period, "that from Aymer de Valence, Earle of Pembroke, (who was one of the Peers that condemned Thomas, Earle of Lancaster,) unto this John, none of these Earles of Pembroke did live to see their sonnes, nor the sonnes their father, so untimely did they die."\*

The male line of William, the eldest surviving son of William de Hastings, Steward to the First and Second Henries, by Maud his first wife, being thus traced to its extinction in the person of John Earl of Pembroke, it now becomes necessary to return to Thomas, who was the said William's eldest son, by his second marriage with Ida daughter of Henry, Earl of Eu, and direct ancestor of Francis, the tenth and late Earl of Huntingdon. This Thomas, by his wife \_\_\_\_\_ daughter of \_\_\_\_\_ had issue an only son named Hugh.

\* Thomas de Walsingham.

Hugh de Hastings, only son and heir of Thomas, married Helena daughter of Allan, and sister and heir of Torphine, or Theorphine, Alveston, of Alveston, commonly called Allerston, in the wapentake of Pickering in the North Riding of Yorkshire, and widow of Alan de Valoines. This Hugh, "for the health of his own soul and that of his wife," as it is simply and piously expressed in the phrase of those times, when beneficence did not blush to avow its faith of an eternal reward, confirmed the grant of forty acres of land at Crosby Ravensworth, in Westmoreland, which the said Allan and Theorphine had made to the hospital of St. Leonard's, in York, and which was again confirmed by Alexander de Wilton, second husband of Helena after Hugh's decease, which occurred in 1208, he leaving issue an only son, Thomas, his heir and successor.

Thomas de Hastings ratified to the canons of Eglistone, in the bishopric of Durham, the patronage of the church of Stratford, bestowed on them by Helena his mother, and also a grant of the aforesaid Theorphine and Allan to the monks of Whitby. He moreover gave twelve bovates of land in Allerston to the Knights Templars, which donation was confirmed by King Henry the Third, in the nineteenth year of his reign; and, one moiety of the Rectory of Gissing, in Norfolk, having been given to Butley Abbey, in Suffolk, about the year 1217, he made over the other half to that monastery. He married Amicia, who, after his death, had for second husband, Sir Robert de Boys of Tersfield, (the heir general of whose family was, in the reign of Edward the Third, married to Sir John Howard, ancestor to the Dukes of Norfolk,) and dying left issue by her an only son Nicholas, who succeeded him.

Sir Nicholas de Hastings, in 1246, assigned to his mother, then wife to the said Sir Robert de Boys, the manor of Gissing in part



of her dower ; and in 1249, granted by fine to the priory of Pentney, in Norfolk, a messuage and two carucates of land in Gayton Thorpe and East Wynche in the said county, to be for ever held of his manor of Gissing by one Knight's fee, and a pair of gilt spurs, or seven pence a year payable at Easter. He married Emmeline, daughter of Walter de Heron, and by her, at the time of his death, in 1268, was father of six sons, viz. Sir Hugh, his heir and successor, Henry, Edmond, Nicholas, Richard, and William.

Sir Hugh de Hastings, in 1269, obtained free warren in his manor of Gissing, in the church of which he founded a chantry, which was endowed by him and Sir Adam de Gissing in 1280. He died in the year 1302, leaving, by Beatrix, his wife, daughter of ——— Nicholas, his only son and heir.

Sir Nicholas de Hastings, by his wife ——— daughter of ——— had two sons, Sir Ralph and William. In 1307, he had a grant from Ralph Fitzwilliam, Baron of Greystock, of the manor of Thorpe Basset, in Yorkshire, which he conveyed the same year to Sir Ralph, his heir and successor. William, the younger son, resided at Thornton, in Yorkshire, and by his wife had also two sons, Nicholas and Edward, which latter was seated at Rouleby, in the same county.

Sir Ralph de Hastings, in 1329, third of Edward the Third, had free warren of Allerston, in Yorkshire; and in 1337, was sheriff of the county, and governor of the castle, of York. William de Wyville released to him, in 1343, all his right in Slingsby, Yorkshire; and he had licence the following year to make a castle of his house at that place. At the battle of Nevil's Cross, near Durham, October 17, 1346, when David Bruce, King of Scotland, was taken prisoner, Sir Richard was present, and received a wound, of which he died in a few days, and was interred, pursuant to the directions in his will,

at Sulbey Abbey, Northamptonshire, of which he was patron. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir William de Herle, Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and sister and heir to Sir Robert de Herle, of Kirby, in Leicestershire, and by her was father of an only son and heir, another

Sir Ralph de Hastings, who, in 1358, sold his manor of Hastings; and, in 1365, became possessed of the manor of Kirby, the future seat of the family for some ages, and of Burton, afterwards called Burton Hastings, in Warwickshire, as heir, in right of his mother, of his uncle Robert Herle, who died the preceding year. He was retained by Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Lancaster, to serve him in peace and war, for forty marks per annum, to be paid quarterly out of his manor of Pickering, in Yorkshire; and in 1369, forty-third of Edward the Third, was joined in commission with others for defending the marches of Northumberland towards Scotland. He was Governor of the Castle, and Sheriff of the County, of York, in 1377, the fifty-first and concluding year of the reign of Edward the Third, and first of Richard the Second, and enjoyed the same offices again in 1381. He departed this life in the year 1398, and was buried at Sulby Abbey, with his father. Sir Ralph was twice married, first, to Isabel, daughter and heir of Sir Robert de Sadyngton, of Sadyngton, in Leicestershire, Knight, by his wife, Joyce, or Jocosa, daughter of Sir Anchitel de Martival, of Nosely, in the same county, Knight, and also heir to her brother Roger de Martival, who sat bishop of Salisbury from 1315 to 1329; and secondly, to Maud, daughter and co-heir of Sir Robert de Sutton, of Sutton, in Holderness, Yorkshire. Of the first marriage was born, Margaret, an only daughter, heir to her mother, and successively espoused to Sir Roger Heron, and Sir John Blacket, Knights, to the former of whom she bore co-heirs, whereof Isabel, the eldest, was wedded to

Sir Thomas Heselrig, of Fawdon, in Northumberland, Knight, ancestor of the present family of that name, inheritors of Nosely, at which place she lies interred, having died in 1406. By his second wife, the Lady Maud, who brought him the manors of Sutton and Bewick, first of Richard the Second, he had issue five sons, Sir Ralph, Sir Richard, Sir Leonard, John, and Bartholomew, and one daughter, named Maud. Sir Ralph, the eldest son, having engaged in a league against Henry the Fourth, with the well-known Owen Glendower, or Glendowrdwy, (as the name is uniformly, and with more attention to Welsh orthography, spelt in the Collection of Public Acts,) and other great men, in favour of Edmund Mortimer, Earl of Marche, the lineal heir of the Crown, was attainted and beheaded in the year 1405. Sir Richard, the second son, having obtained a grant of his brother's forfeited estate, served in Parliament, the third of Henry the Sixth, for the County of York, of which he was Sheriff in 1426 and 1434, as also of the Counties of Warwick and Leicester in 1414, 1422, and 1432. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry, Lord Beaumont, and widow of William, Lord D'Eincourt, but died without issue in 1437, the fifteenth of Henry the Sixth.

Sir Leonard de Hastings, third son of Sir Ralph, and continuator of the line, succeeded to the family estate upon the decease of his brother Sir Richard, and served the office of Sheriff for the Counties of Warwick and Leicester in 1454. He married Alice, daughter of Thomas, Lord Camois, and, dying in 1456, the thirty-fourth of Henry the Sixth, left issue by her four sons, viz. Sir William, Lord Hastings, his heir, Richard, Sir Ralph, and Thomas; and three daughters.—Anne married to Thomas Ferrers, of Tamworth Castle, Esq., Joane to John Brokesby, Esq., and Elizabeth to Sir John Donne. Of the sons, Richard, the second, espoused Joane, daughter

of Sir Richard Welles, Lord Welles and Willoughby, heir to her brother Robert, Lord Welles, and widow of Richard Pigot, Esq.; and by her, who survived him about two years, had an only son, Antony, who died before him without issue. He had summons to Parliament as Baron Welles, November 15, 1482, twenty-second of Edward the Fourth; and, departing this life in the year 1503, was buried in the Grey Friars Church, London. Sir Ralph, the third Son, in 1461, was keeper of the lions in the Tower of London, joint constable of Rockingham Castle with his eldest brother, William, Captain of Guisnes, and Esquire of the body of the King. By his wife he had three daughters, coheirs, first, Florence, wife of Edward Lord Grey, of Wilton, the last heir male of whose family, Thomas, was, in November, 1603, the first of James the First, convicted of high treason with Lord Cobham, and Sir Walter Raleigh, and died a prisoner in the Tower of London, July the 6th, 1614; second, Isabel married to Sir ——— Dive, Knight; and third, Maud, to Sir John Longueville, Knight.

## CHAPTER II.

OF SIR WILLIAM HASTINGS, AFTERWARDS LORD HASTINGS.

SIR William de Hastings, afterwards Baron Hastings, of Ashby de la Zouch, eldest son and heir to Sir Leonard, succeeded to the family estates on the decease of his father. Acting a conspicuous part in the political events of his time, Sir William occupies a correspondent space in their history, and was as remarkable for his valour, loyalty, and public services, and the consequent high favour in which he stood with his Sovereign, as for the unworthy and violent manner of his death. In the year 1455, he was appointed Sheriff of the Counties of Warwick and Leicester, and Ranger of Were Forest. Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, who afterwards fell at the battle of Wakefield, December 31, 1460, fighting for his undoubted right to the Crown, in the grant of an annuity to Sir William, dated at the castle of Fotheringay, April 23, 1456, styles him his beloved servant, and states “that he gives same to the end that he should serve him above all others, and attend him at all times, (his allegiance to the King excepted).” When Edward the Fourth, the Duke’s son, ascended the throne, March 4, 1460, he was not unmindful of his father’s friend, and hastened to testify his filial respect for the memory of the one, as well as his personal esteem of the other’s merit, by showering on him so many different offices of dignity, trust, or profit, as almost appear tedious in the enumeration. He was successively, and at short intervals, constituted Master of the Mints at London and Calais; Steward of the honour of Lei-

cester, and of the Manors and Castles of Donnington, Higham Ferrers, and Daventry, together with all other his Majesty's Manors in the Counties of Warwick, Leicester, Nottingham, and Huntingdon; and parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster; Constable of Leicester, Higham Ferrers, and Donnington Castles; Ranger of Leicester Forest; Constable of Rockingham Castle jointly with his brother Sir Ralph; Steward of the Royal Manors within the forest of Rockingham; and Lord Chamberlain of the Houshold, and of North Wales. In addition to these several testimonies of his Sovereign's favour and gracious regard, he was, on the 26th of July, 1461, the first of Edward the Fourth, by patent, created Baron Hastings of Ashby de la Zouch; and soon after invested with the high dignity of Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter. He subsequently obtained the Castle and rape of Hastings in Sussex; and, some years later, was appointed Constable of the Castle of Beaumaris in the Isle of Anglesey.

On the 14th of April, 1464, his Lordship entered into agreement with Dame Elizabeth Grey, late wife of Sir John Grey, Knight, son and heir of Edward Grey, late Lord Ferrers, that he should have the wardship of her son Thomas, afterwards Marquis of Dorset, on whose part it was stipulated that he should, within five or six years afterwards, marry the eldest daughter of Lord Hastings that might then be living. In his capacity of Master of the Mint, he undertook, about this time, a new coinage of gold, consisting of pieces of eight shillings and four pence sterling, called nobles, (of which, says my authority, there should be fifty pieces in the pound weight of the Tower,) other pieces of one half, and a third of one fourth, that value. In 1465, we find him in a diplomatic character, accompanying Richard Earl of Warwick, to conclude a league of amity between King Edward and Charles of Burgundy; and, in the fol-

lowing year, he was again associated with the same nobleman to negotiate a peace with the Ambassador of Lewis the Eleventh, King of France; as also to confer with Charles of Burgundy touching his contemplated marriage with Margaret, sister to the King of England. He was afterwards commissioned, in conjunction with Earl Rivers, to treat and arrange the conditions of a league between the King, and Philip, Duke of Burgundy. During this same year, he was again constituted Steward of the honour of Leicester, and Constable of the Castle there, as also Warden of all the parks, chases, and manors belonging to that honour.

The long contested claims, and sanguinary struggles, between the hostile houses of York and Lancaster, afforded Lord Hastings fresh occasions for displaying his unshaken fidelity, and dauntless zeal, in the cause of his royal friend and master. In 1470, the superior, but transient power of the adherents of Henry the Sixth, reinforced by the levies of Richard Plantagenet, Earl of Warwick, commonly styled the *King-maker*, prevailed so far as to render it expedient for King Edward to quit the realm. At that perilous and doubtful crisis, and when the Lancastrian forces surprised the King's encampment, near Nottingham, by night, Lord Hastings prudently urged the necessity of his Majesty's immediate flight from an army in a great measure composed of concealed enemies, and vacillating friends, on whom no safe reliance could be placed in circumstances of emergency. Accordingly the fugitives, who had scarcely time to mount their horses, so sudden and rapid was the advance of the assailing party, hurried, with a small retinue, to Lynn, in Norfolk, whence they instantly embarked for the Continent on board a small vessel, fortunately found in that harbour ready to put to sea; and, after narrowly escaping the pursuit of some ships belonging to the Easterlings, or Hanse Towns, then at war with both France and

England, with great difficulty reached the port of Alcmaer in Holland. Such was the precipitation of the King's flight on this occasion, that he was unable to carry any thing of value along with him; and the only reward he could bestow on the Captain whose vessel brought him over was his own robe lined with sable, promising, at the same time, a further and ample recompence, provided that any propitious change of fortune should ever restore him to power. Charles, Duke of Burgundy, Edward's brother-in-law, to whom, on his landing, he repaired to solicit succour, having, for that purpose, equipped four large ships, at Terveer in Zealand, and hired fourteen sail more from the Easterlings, delivered this squadron, together with a sum of money, to his Majesty, who immediately set sail for England, still accompanied by his faithful counsellor, and the companion of his fortunes, Lord Hastings. They were repulsed in their first attempt to effect a landing on the coast of Norfolk, but, steering northwards, they succeeded in disembarking at Ravenspur, in Yorkshire. Not long after, when news was brought his Majesty, that the temporising Marquis Montague, who, it seems, had promised to espouse, in opposition to his own brother Earl Warwick, the interest of the House of York, was mounted on horseback, with certain others, and had ordered all their followers to cry, "King Henry!" Lord Hastings, although married to Warwick's sister, stood firm in his allegiance; and subsequently commanded 3000 cavalry at the battle near Barnet, fought the 14th of April, when Earl Warwick was slain, his whole army routed and dispersed, and Edward regained possession of the Crown. But, after the decisive action of Tewksbury, which took place the 4th of May following, his Lordship's excessive zeal, and passionate loyalty, momentarily stifled his judgment as well as steeled his humanity, and hurried him into the participation of an act, which justly stained a reputation



otherwise honourable and unblemished.—The moral purposes of history, national or personal, would be defeated, or left incomplete, were not the same diligence and fidelity used in exposing crimes and errors to reprobation, as in exhibiting good and glorious actions in the most attractive light. If the bright example on one side of the picture excites to imitation, there is a kind of negative lesson in the gloomy reverse, which, by admonishing us what vices to avoid, tends, perhaps, more impressively, to form and regulate the judgment, and improve the heart. It becomes therefore the province of the historian, in a double sense, as most agreeable to truth, and most conducive to the ends of instruction, to give an impartial view of those great and eminent characters, whose virtues, through the magnifying medium of rank and power which surrounds them, best rouse the ambition to emulate, and by whose very vices we may be edified, and taught to hold stricter watch over the bad passions, which, unhappily, are too often found to master, and deform, even the noblest natures. But to return from this digression, Queen Margaret and her son, the young Prince Edward, made prisoners on the field of Tewksbury, were conducted into the presence of the King, who, flushed with his recent triumphs, haughtily demanded of the latter, “How he dared to invade his dominions?” The royal captive, rising superior to his fallen fortunes, imprudently but magnanimously replied, “that he came thither to claim his just inheritance.” Edward, yielding to the irritation of the moment, unmanfully struck him with his gauntlet; and the Dukes of Clarence and Gloucester, Lord Hastings, and Sir Thomas Grey, taking the blow as a signal for further violence, hurried the prince into the next apartment, and there speedily dispatched him with their daggers.—“Quand un roi veut le mal, il est trop tot obei.”\*

\* See Voltaire's *Henriade*.

About this period Lord Hastings was made Captain of Calais and its dependencies, in which office he continued twelve years, and, in 1472, was appointed Constable of the Castle of Nottingham, and keeper of the gate there, as also Warden of Sherwood Forest, and Chamberlain of the Exchequer. To these offices were added that of Chief Steward of the honour of the High Peak, and of Tutbury, by the Duke of Clarence, together with Chief Ranger of all the parks and chases belonging thereto, with a fee of twenty pounds a year for life. Having obtained the wardship of Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Hungerford, he entered into an agreement with her mother and stepfather, that Edward, his son and heir, should, in due time, take her to wife, and in case of Edward's death, then George or Richard, the younger brothers. By letters patent, bearing date at Nottingham, April 17, 1474, King Edward gave licence to his Lordship, to inclose and impark three thousand acres of land and wood in Ashby de la Zouch; two thousand at Bagworth and Thornton, with the appurtenances, and two thousand more in Kirby, of his demesne lands at these several places, together with the privilege of free warren in them all. The same letters impowered him to erect fortified houses of lime and stone in these different manors;\* and he accordingly built at Ashby, for the residence of his family,

\* The words in the original letters patent for this purpose are, "*murellandi, tourellandi, kernellandi, imbattellandi, turrellandi, and machecolandi,*" which are French technical terms in architecture Latinized, and are thus interpreted, *murellare*, to wall up or immure; *tourellare*, to make towers, bulwarks, or fortresses; *kernellare*, to pinnacle; *imbattellare*, to embattle, or make defences on the wall against assaults or sieges; *turrellare*, to make holes or loops in walls, through which to shoot at the assailants; and *machecolare*, to fix an offensive contrivance, like a grate, over a gate or passage, from which scalding water, or ponderous missiles, might be cast down upon the enemy. See the Institutes of Lord Coke, who further observes on this matter, that no subject can build a castle or house of strength embattled, or other fortress defensive whatsoever, without special leave of the King, for the danger that might ensue if every man at his pleasure were at liberty to do so.

which it continued to be for two hundred years, a magnificent castle, afterwards remarkable as being the temporary prison of Mary, Queen of Scots. It was situated on the south side of the town, and environed with three extensive parks, all beautifully wooded; the Great Park, which was ten miles in circumference, Brostepp Park for fallow deer, and the Little Park for red deer. The structure itself was composed partly of brick, and partly of stone; the apartments spacious and splendid, and a fine chapel adjoining, scarcely to be equalled by any private one, those of the Universities excepted. But its grandest ornament was two stately towers, built of Ashler stone and roofed with lead, from the situation of which, as well as from tradition, it appears that it was intended to erect two others at a proper distance to equal and correspond with them. The greater of these towers was in itself a complete house, consisting of a large hall, great chambers, bed chambers, kitchen, cellars, and all other convenient offices. The other, called the Kitchen Tower, was much smaller, and was an entire kitchen of extraordinary dimensions, over which were divers fine apartments. While this building was carrying on, Lord Hastings was suddenly driven from Belvoir Castle, (committed to his keeping after the forfeiture of Lord Ross, who took part with Henry the Sixth,) by Mr. Harrington, a partisan of that Lord, but, soon returning with a strong body of followers, he regained possession, unroofed the Castle, and carried the lead to Ashby; and Stoke Albany, another goodly manor of the Ross family, is said to have shared a similar fate.

In 1474, he was returned to serve the King in Normandy, and other parts of France, for one year, with forty men at arms, and three hundred archers, and with eighty more at Calais, for life; and, about the same time, was made Steward of the honour of Tutbury, in the counties of Derby and Stafford, of the town and lordship of New-

castle under Line, Wirksworth, Ashburne, and all the castles in those counties, and of the town of Derby by the corporation there. He was further appointed Constable of Tutbury Castle, Chief Forester of Needwood and Duffield, and Surveyor of that honour, for which service he had the fee of forty pounds a year for life. Upon the conclusion of the peace with France in 1475, his Lordship had two thousand crowns for his share of the King of France's present to the King of England's principal servants, which he attributed to his interview with Lewis the Eleventh at Pecquigne, near Amiens. In this year, so great was the rank and importance of this very exalted personage, that, as Dr. Fuller observes, "he had no less than two lords, nine knights, fifty-eight esquires, with twenty gentlemen of note, retained by indenture, during their lives, to take his part against all persons within the realm, their allegiance to the King only excepted." "The reader needeth not my dim candle," says the same author, "to direct him to this illustrious person, whom King Edward the Fourth, or rather Edward Plantagenet, (because more in his human than in his royal capacity,) so delighted in, that he made him his Lord Chamberlain, Baron Hastings of Ashby de la Zouch, &c." Philip de Comines, who knew his Lordship personally and well, describes him "as a person of singular wisdom and virtue, in great authority with his master, and not without cause, having ever served him faithfully;" and, making mention of the King of France's bounty to Edward's chief officers, this historian states, that his French Majesty, at one time, made Lord Hastings a present of plate valued at ten thousand marks. Notwithstanding such flattering and substantial tokens of favour, and the constant solicitations of the Court of France, his Lordship, with a becoming sense of the dignity and independence of a British peer, and the loyalty of a British subject, for a long time persisted in

rejecting all proposals to become the pensioner of Lewis, although the acceptance of offers of this kind, at that period, carried with it nothing suspicious or degrading. At last by the repeated persuasions of Comines himself, and after some courteous and friendly correspondence with the King, he consented to accept two thousand crowns a year, utterly refusing, however, to give, on the first payment of this sum, any written receipt for the money, saying, it being paid in gold, "put it here into my sleeve, for other acknowledgment you get none of me, for no man shall say, that King Edward's Lord Chamberlain hath been pensioner to the French King, nor that my acquittances be found in his Chamber of Accounts." His pension was ever after paid without requiring further acquittance, and Lewis esteemed him more than all the other servants of the King of England. In 1477, the Dean and Chapter of the Collegiate Church styled of our Lady, at Leicester, by their instrument covenanted, "that, whensoever Lord Hastings should fortune to depart this life, they would keep a special obit for him in their Church on the day of his funeral, as also every year to celebrate his anniversary for the health of his soul, and that of Lady Katherine, his wife; and that the provost should yearly on that day, at the end of mass, pay to the dean three shillings and four-pence, to every canon there present two shillings, to every vicar of the choir twelve-pence, to every clerk six-pence, to every chorister four-pence, to the vergers four-pence, and to every poor man and woman then being in the alms-house within that college one penny, out of the issues and profits of the Hospital of St. Leonard, situate near the Abbey of Leicester, by reason that Lord Hastings had obtained a grant of that hospital from the King, and given it to the college for ever."

To these various authorities, which we have been anxious to copy, with little abridgment or alteration, from the curiously minute

chronicles of those days, as much for the light, which they throw on the particular character before us, as for the illustrations they afford of early manners, we will now add the eulogium of Sir Thomas More, from his History of Richard the Third, where he says, with his quaint, but expressive brevity of style, "that Lord Hastings was an honourable man, a good knight, and a gentle of great authority with his prince; of living somewhat dissolute, plain and open to his enemy, and sweet to his friend; easy to be beguiled, as he that (of good heart and courage) forestudied no peril; a loving man, and passing well-beloved; very faithful and trusty, and trusting too much." In this enumeration of his Lordship's qualities, the particular trait "of living somewhat dissolute," recalls a circumstance in his history, which should not be passed over in silence. That he should fall into licentious habits of life cannot indeed appear surprising, standing, as he did, first, among the favourites of a gay and dissipated prince, to whose tastes, private esteem, added to the complaisance which power never fails to command, might often subdue him to conform; a prince whom he resembled in valour, gallantry, accomplishments, and the graces of his person, and of whom a grave historian, Philip de Comines, has asserted, that he owed his restoration to the throne to the partiality which the London ladies had for him. Among the multitude of Edward's mistresses, three were particularly distinguished by his bounty and favour. Of these his Majesty used sportively to say, "that one (Jane Shore) was the merriest, the other the wittiest, and the third the holiest, in the world, since she would never stir from the church but when he sent for her." Such was the example of unrestrained incontinence held up to the eyes of the court and the country; and it must be allowed it was difficult, if not impossible, to escape the contagion, especially when it came armed with the double seduction of familiar friendship

and the dazzling lustre of a throne. To Jane Shore, however, that paragon of wit and beauty, the story of whose loves, and melancholy end, still engages the sympathies of posterity, and teaches, from our stage, the calamitous retribution which follows "the broken marriage vow," his Lordship was long and passionately attached. "Such flaws" (as the poet of her misfortunes says of him,) "are found in the most worthy natures." Her maiden name was Wainstead, the only child of Mr. Thomas Wainstead, a reputable mercer, residing in Cheapside. Gifted by nature with perfect symmetry of form, exquisite sweetness of features, and delicacy of complexion, besides the most amiable temper and quick mental parts, the over-indulgent fondness of her parents, ambitiously speculating on the promise of her charms, spared no means to make her mistress of every ornamental female accomplishment, and grace of good-breeding. "Proper she was," says Sir Thomas More, "and fair; nothing in her body you could have changed, unless you would have wished her a little higher. Yet this beauty, so near to perfection, was not the thing, which charmed men so powerfully as her admirable and never-failing wit, which made her conversation incomparably delightful; for she never appeared sullen nor out of humour, but easy and pleasant at all times; neither apt to be mute, nor pour out words without measure, nor punish the company with impertinent noise and nonsense." Thus qualified, and having had frequent opportunities of being admitted a spectator at the diversions of the palace, as well as into the first circles of fashionable society, she soon attracted a rival crowd of admirers, among whom Lord Hastings was not the least ardent and devoted. The sedulous and suspicious attentions of so many young noblemen of a luxurious Court, and in fact the detection of some criminal designs, alarmed Mr. Wainstead for his daughter's reputation, to secure which he pru-

dently resolved to have her married to Mr. Matthew Shore, a wealthy goldsmith of Lombard-street, who had previously solicited her hand. On this occasion Lord Hastings, whose affection, now doubly illicit, had nothing diminished, paid a visit of compliment to the new married couple. Mr. Shore felt flattered by the honour, and his Lordship's address and affability soon placed him on familiar terms of intimacy in the family, and of confidence with the unsuspecting husband. The lady, however, affecting ignorance of his intentions, by the dexterity of her wit, and a happy vein of irony, always contrived to baffle his design, and divert his overtures, even when seconded by the most costly presents, till at last, being one day alone with her, his impatient desires urged him to such unwarrantable liberties, that the offended beauty rushed from the apartment, and acquainted her husband, who indignantly discharged the mortified lover from his house, and interdicted all future visits. But, though the wife's fidelity was proof against the temptations of nobility, the dazzling influence of a crown soon after preponderated over the constancy of her virtue. Of the subsequent and more successful suit of the royal spoiler himself, said to be planned and instigated by Lord Hastings through revenge, the circumstances are familiarly known. Suffice it for our purpose to say, that however firmly she had rejected his Lordship's addresses in the first instance, and however his sense of honour and duty might have restrained him from any renewal of them during her intercourse with his royal master, it is nevertheless certain, that his attachment still survived, and that he took her under his immediate protection from the time of Edward's death till the day of his own, which involved her ruin also. That fatal day, which was to deprive her of a generous friend, and cast her upon the mercy of an envious and unforgiving world, was now fast approaching. After the decease of the King, Prince



Edward, then but twelve years old, was proclaimed, and the Duke of Gloucester appointed Protector by the Council. Without suspecting the ambitious and villainous schemes of the Duke, Lord Hastings promoted this appointment with all the weight of his influence, and even criminally concurred, by his consent and advice, in the condemnation to death of Lord Rivers, the Queen's father, Gray, and Vaughan, detained prisoners at Pontefract. But Gloucester subsequently finding out, through Sir William Catesby, one of his secret spies, that his Lordship would not further acquiesce in his schemes of usurpation, nor be seduced from his allegiance to the children of the King, who had ever honoured him with his friendship, resolved upon the utter destruction of the man, whose inflexible loyalty, talents, and popularity, he regarded as the main obstacles in his way to the crown. No crime could be too atrocious for the conception of the tyrant, nor too daring for his determined spirit to perpetrate, provided it could be made subservient to his lust of power, and advanced him a step on "young ambition's ladder." He therefore on the 13th of June, (the very day on which the beforementioned prisoners at Pontefract suffered execution,) summoned a council to the Tower, whither Lord Hastings repaired without suspecting any evil design against him. After some familiar and complimentary conversation with the Councillors, the Protector went out on pretence of business, and returning shortly after with a countenance altered to anger, he asked them, "What punishment was due to persons, who plotted against his life, nearly related as he was to the King, and entrusted with the administration of Government?" Lord Hastings replied that "they well merited the punishment of traitors." "These traitors," added Gloucester, "are the sorceress, my brother's wife, and Jane Shore, his mistress, with others, their associates: see how they have consumed my body by

their incantations and witchcraft;”—at the same time laying bare his withered arm, which all present knew to be an infirmity that attended him from his birth. “Certainly,” rejoined his Lordship, deeply concerned to find his beloved favourite included in the accusation, “if they are guilty of such crimes, they deserve the greatest punishment.” “If!” exclaimed the Protector, “and do you reply to me with your *ifs* and your *ands*? I tell you they are guilty, and I will make it good on your body. You are the chief abettor of that witch Shore; you are yourself a traitor, and I swear by St. Paul, I will not dine to-day, till I have your head for your offences.” At the same moment he struck the table furiously with his hand, and a person planted without for the purpose, cried “Treason!” The room was instantaneously filled with armed men, who rushed in at the signal. Amidst the confusion and consternation which prevailed, one of the guards, whether by accident, design, or mistake, with a blow of his poll-axe, severely wounded Lord Stanley on the head, who however escaped further injury by crawling under the table. But Lord Hastings, being marked out by his ferocious accuser, was forthwith seized, hurried away, and, with very little allowance of time to prepare his soul to meet a summons so awful and unforeseen, most cruelly and tyrannically beheaded on a log of building timber, which lay in the court of the Tower. Notwithstanding our scepticism touching the doctrine of dreams in general, and though the circumstance is discredited, or at least omitted, by later historians, we do not deem it improper to mention in this place, the particular and prophetic one, which Lord Stanley is related to have had on the night preceding this bloody tragedy. That nobleman, as the story is told, dreamed that he accompanied Lord Hastings in a grand hunting match, when, in the height of the chase, the wild boar on a sudden turned, and mortally gored his Lordship, at the same time

dangerously wounding Lord Stanley himself. On awaking, such was the impression of terror on his mind, that he hastened, before break of day, to the residence of Lord H. roused him from his bed, and communicated the substance of his dream, as well as his ominous apprehensions of some impending disaster. Lord Hastings, however, like Cæsar with the Sybil, slighted the admonition, and only smiled at the superstitious weakness of his friend. Jane Shore is also said to have been tormented with frightful visions on that night; and when, next morning, the noble victim himself was on his way to the Tower, it is recorded, that his horse frequently stumbled in a most extraordinary way, and often wheeled back without any apparent cause, as if actuated by some instinctive presentiment of evil. The hypocritical and sanguinary Richard, dreading the consequences of the murder of a nobleman so popular and beloved, as well for his loyalty to the House of York, as for his constant regard to the common good, did not think it sufficient, expressly to send for the Lord Mayor and chief citizens to come to him at the Tower, in order to satisfy them of the justice of the sentence; but, more effectually to appease the murmurings of the inhabitants of London, as well as anticipate the censure of the nation at large, he further caused a herald at arms, a few hours after the deed, to publish, throughout the city, a proclamation enumerating the imputed offences of the deceased, and justifying his hasty execution upon the pretended ground of some sudden detection of treason. The false and frivolous allegations which he had the hypocrisy and effrontery to put forth in this apologetic proclamation, were, “ That Lord Hastings had conspired to assassinate the Protector, and seize upon the young King and government; that by his ill advice, he had enticed the late King to debaucheries, and thereby shortened his days; that, since the death of the King, he had lived in continual incontinency with Shore’s wife, and

particularly, the very night before his death, so that it was no wonder if his ungracious life brought him to as unhappy an end." To these arbitrary measures, attempted to be glossed over with pretences so palpably untrue, and an affectation of sanctity quite as hollow, succeeded, as a natural consequence, the ruin of the twice-widowed and ill-fated Jane Shore. Having been jointly accused with Lord Hastings, it was considered necessary, for the sake of consistency, and to keep up the farce of appearances, that she should also be a fellow-sufferer. Accordingly, Sir Thomas Howard, by virtue of an order in Council, lodged her a prisoner in the Tower, and seized all her goods to the value of about three thousand marks. After clearly vindicating herself before the Council from the charges brought against her of witchcraft, and of concerting with Lord Hastings the destruction of the Protector, her enemies, on a minor imputation of open and scandalous incontinence, turned her over to the jurisdiction of the Spiritual Court, which tribunal enjoined her the public penance of walking on the ensuing Sunday from the Bishop of London's palace to St. Paul's, barefooted, covered with a white sheet, the cross borne before her, and carrying a lighted wax taper in her hand. Arrived at the church, and being placed in the choir, directly opposite the preacher, she there, in a prescribed form of words, made open confession of her crimes, and declared her unfeigned repentance. The lovely sufferer went through this painful trial with such decent sorrow, so much modest grace, and heavenly humility, and seemed penetrated with so deep and contrite a sense of her sinful life, as to melt the most rigid, and even her very persecutors, to pity. According to the charming description of the poet, whose words we shall be easily pardoned for quoting here :

" Submissive, sad, and lowly was her look ;  
 A burning taper in her hand she bore,  
 And on her shoulders, carelessly confused,  
 With loose neglect her lovely tresses hung ;  
 Upon her cheek a faintish blush was spread ;  
 Feeble she seemed, and sorely smit with pain,  
 While, barefoot as she trod the flinty pavement,  
 Her footsteps all along were marked with blood ;  
 Yet silent still she passed, and unrepining :  
 Her streaming eyes bent ever on the earth,  
 Except, when in some bitter pang of sorrow,  
 To heaven she seemed in fervent zeal to raise them,  
 And begged that mercy man denied her here."     ROWE.

'Thenceforward this beautiful, but frail and most unfortunate lady, who, during her short sunshine of prosperity and princely favour, had done such numberless good offices out of pure benevolence of heart, experienced nothing but contempt, ingratitude, persecution, and accumulating misfortune. " The world was not her friend, nor the world's law ;" and, after dragging out years of bitter existence, broken-hearted and abandoned, she at last ended her life and sufferings in the lowest extreme of beggary and human wretchedness.

But it is now time to return to Lord Hastings, whose remains were interred near the tomb of Edward the Fourth, in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, (where a splendid chapel and monument were afterwards erected by his wife,\*) and the confiscation of all his

\* By the directions of this lady, for whose last will see Appendix, another obit was founded, in St. George's Chapel, at Windsor, for her husband, herself, and their ancestors, and descendants ; and in the north aisle of the choir, under an arch, she caused to be erected the chapel of St. Stephen, in which his remains were interred, and in which, according to Dugdale, a monument was still to be seen, but, as none now remains, it is probable that both he and Fuller mistake the chapel itself for such. This chapel is composed of stone, with the compartments in three stories, the two uppermost being open arch-work, and, previous to the late repairs of St. George's, was gilt and painted in a variety of colours. At the head and feet is a fascia of angels, with black shields, under a dental cornice. The south side is painted with the history of the patron

estates followed. Richard, however, as if struck with remorse, or, what is more probable, pursuing his usual line of policy, by letters under his privy signet, dated at Reading the 23d of July following, removed the attainder, and restored the forfeited possessions of the family, with the exception of the manor of Loughborough, which he alleged belonged of right to his own wife. It is rather a singular fact, and not unworthy of particular notice here, that Bosworth Field, where Richard not long after ended his life and ill-acquired dominion, was part of the estate of the very man, whose murder he

saint, in four pannels, the first of which represents the proto-martyr in a pulpit in the open air, and among trees, preaching to a mixed audience of doctors of the law and others, with some women wearing the head dress of the times. One of the doctors, from his attitude, and the expression of his face, seems struck with conviction. Underneath is the following inscription :

Predicat his dictatis honore nitentem  
Viguit et mulcet doctrina corda virorum.

The second exhibits his arraignment before the High Priest and Council of the Jews, Herod being seated on his throne, under a tent or canopy, and his sword-bearer at his right-hand. One person, dressed in a gown, has brought up the bill of accusation, which is presented by another bearing a mace in his hand, and kneeling on one knee. Below is inscribed :

Invidie facibus succensa patenter Herodi  
Instat, et accusat Stephanum plebs impia justu.

The third pannel displays the martyrdom, in the presence of Herod, his sword-bearer, and attendants, and Saul sitting loaded with the robes of the witnesses, with this inscription :

Sponte sua servat Saulus vestis lapidantium,  
Saxa plu torvi : prothomartyr pro quibus orans.

Under the fourth, much narrower than the rest, which represents the sufferer kneeling and expiring, his soul borne aloft by two angels towards heaven, is inscribed :

In dño moritur datur  
Ec quo vita p̄ennis.

These four pictures, beneath which is a cavity for holy water, are unequally divided by purfled finials, at the base of which is a Maunch thrice repeated.

had thus treacherously procured. It would seem as if Providence had decreed this spot to be the theatre of its retribution, in order more deeply to embitter the tyrant's fall, and remind him, at that avenging moment, of the foul act by which he may be said to have commenced his career of crime.

In this flagrantly unjust and unworthy manner ended the life of a nobleman, who, if he erred, as impartial judgment cannot deny he did, in a few instances in his public capacity, through ardency of zeal and the most attached and untainted loyalty, and in his private character by criminal indulgence of the passions, and compliance with the habitudes of a licentious Court, must, however, be allowed to have stood pre-eminent, beyond perhaps any person of his time, for national services both in council and in the field, for his influence and popularity, and for the extent of his properties, as well as the multiplied honours and privileges conferred upon him by his sovereign, of whom he was at once the faithful subject, and the devoted and confidential friend.

Lord Hastings married Catharine, widow of William Lord Bonville and Harrington, daughter of Richard Nevil, Earl of Salisbury, and sister to Earl Warwick ; and by that lady, who died in 1504, and had sepulture at Ashby de la Zouch, he had issue four sons : first, Edward, his heir ; second, Sir Richard ; third, Sir William ; and fourth, George ; and also a daughter, Anne, espoused to George Talbot, fourth Earl of Shrewsbury. Sir William, the third Son, by his wife ———— had two daughters, coheirs, viz. Elizabeth married to John Beaumont, of Grace Dieu, Leicestershire, Master of the Rolls, and Mary, to Thomas Saunders, of Harringworth, in Northamptonshire.

## CHAPTER III.

SIR EDWARD, SECOND LORD HASTINGS, SON OF LORD WILLIAM.

**EDWARD**, eldest son and heir of his father, Lord Hastings, was made a Knight of the Bath by the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard the Third, in 1476, at the same time that the Duke conferred that honour on his own son Edward; and, in 1482, 22d of Edward the Fourth, his father then living, was first summoned to parliament, as he was again, though still a minor, in 1483, by the title of Edward Hastings de Hungerford, Chevalier, in right of his wife Mary, daughter and sole heiress of Thomas, Baron Hungerford, Botreux, Moulins, and Moels. In 1484, in consequence of a claim made by Francis, Viscount Lovell, to the manors of Ashby de la Zouch and Bagworth, as well as to the castles, manors, and lands of the late Lord Beaumont, then in possession of Lord Edward and Lady Catherine his mother, much contention and enmity arose between the parties, which was not finally appeased till Lord Edward arrived at age. However, through the mediation of mutual friends, an agreement was in the mean time concluded, under which Lord Lovell received two hundred marks in money, together with the enjoyment, during Lord Edward's nonage, of the third part of the disputed lands, valued at the same sum, yearly; he, on his part, stipulating, in consideration of these concessions, to be, during the said nonage, "good lord and cousin to her and her son, and to all his brethren, and to show unto them and their servants, his lordship's good favour, furtherance, and support and assistance, in their lawful matters." When Henry the Seventh, after the defeat of Richard at Bosworth,



attained the crown, that monarch, justly appreciating the merits and sufferings of the late Lord William Hastings, confirmed the reversal of the attainder, and restored Lord Edward full possession of all his paternal estates and dignities, by patent, dated November 22, 1485, together with the lands of Sir Thomas Hungerford his father-in-law. He shared in the dangers and honours of the battle of Stoke : and was subsequently sent, in a high military capacity, to assist the Emperor Maximilian against the French. In 1489, conformably to the directions in his father's will, his mother made partition with him of all the family plate and jewels.\* Under his immediate superintendence was compiled, the same year, a manuscript entitled "*Feoda Domini Hastynges ratione Mariæ uxoris ejus dominæ Botreux, Molins, Moyles, ex mero studio, labore, et scriptione mei Thomæ Jakes, anno quinto Henrici Septimi Regis Angliæ 1489.*" In 1499, he obtained a grant from the king, of all the profits arising annually from the tops, crops,

\* In the record, to which we are indebted for these minute family particulars, is set down, as exceptions, a curious list of articles, which it is stated then lay in pawn for money borrowed on them ; and therefore could not be comprehended in this partition. The list is as follows ;

	£.	s.	d.
First, a cross, with a piece of the Holy Cross therein .....	50	0	0
Item, a ring with a flat diamond .....			
Item, a pair of pots, silver and gilt .....			
Item, six bowls, silver and gilt, and a salt of gold with a swan .....	40	0	0
Item, a cross of silver and gilt .....	40	0	0
Item, a collar of gold with King Edward's livery .....	40	0	0
Item, two salts with a cover, silver and gilt .....	10	0	0
Item, six bowles, silver and gilt .....	20	0	0
Item, six bowles silver, and a tablet of gold .....	40	0	0
Item, a pair of pots, silver and gilt .....	20	0	0
Item, an ouche with three diamonds and six pearls	}		
A cross of diamonds with a great pearl			
Two little quart pots, silver and gilt			
Two salts with covers, silver and gilt			
	120	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£. 380	0	0

and bark of trees in the park called the Fryth at Leicester, as well the produce of those cut down for repairing the pales, as the crops called broudings for the sustenance of the King's deer, at a yearly rent of 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Some idea of the great consequence of this ancient family may be formed by the following account of Richard Sacheverell, Receiver-General to his Lordship, for the year ending at Michaelmas, 1500.

The total amount of Lord Hastings' income in those times, was 1558*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* of which the receipts in Leicestershire were,

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Burton, Overy, Bellesdon, and Whiston . . . . .	3	6	8
Carliton Curlieu . . . . .	4	3	4
Burrow Wood . . . . .	9	5	8½
Leicester . . . . .	0	10	8
Ashby de le Zouch . . . . .	13	6	8
Receipt for in sic', scil', Beaumont's Land. . . . .	63	13	4

An account is also preserved of fees and annuities paid to his Lordship's retainers, among whom were several Knights and Esquires of high degree. Sir Reginald Bray was Steward of certain estates in the counties of Somerset and Wilts, on a salary of 20*l.* and Richard Sacheverell had the same sum as Receiver-General. Thomas Keeble, Sergeant at Law, had an annual fee of 20*l.* Thomas Jakes was Attorney General to the family on a fee of 56*s.* 8*d.*, and William Cook was Auditor-General on a fee of 11*l.*

In 1504, Lord Hastings granted an annual rent of 35*s.* arising out of the manor of Alveston in Yorkshire, to the Dean and Canons of the Collegiate Church of St. George's Windsor, for ever, in order to make up the sum of 20*l.* bequeathed to them by his father's will for the purpose of establishing, in a certain chapel where he lies interred, a perpetual celebration of divine service by an appointed chaplain,

for the souls of himself and his wife, his ancestors, descendants, and all the faithful deceased. The following year his Lordship entered into agreement with Thomas, Earl of Derby, for the marriage of his daughter Anne to that nobleman. The terms of this contract, as we find them recorded,\* are worth copying for their curiosity, and as a specimen of the safe, sober style of match-making prevalent in those days. “ By indenture between Thomas Earl of Derby, and Edward Hastings, Knight, Lord Hastings and Hungerford, it was covenanted, that the said Earl should, before the feast of Pentecost next coming, wed, and take to wife, Ann, the daughter of the said Lord Hastings; and that the said Earl should, at his costs and charges, obtain the license of our holy father the Pope at Rome, for the marriage, and also, at his costs and charges, apparel the said Ann, and bear all the charges, as well for the dinner, as all other things requisite and convenient for the marriage: The Lord Hastings to make good estate to trustees of manors, lands, &c. to the yearly value of six hundred marks, and the Earl to make a like title to the value of four hundred marks. The Lord Hastings further covenanted to pay, should the marriage take effect, four thousand marks of lawful money, viz. five hundred marks in the town or place where the marriage should be had; and, on the first of May, 1507, five hundred marks in London, in the Cathedral of St. Paul, at the font in the same church, and five hundred more at the same place, on every succeeding first day of May, till the year 1513 inclusive.”

His Lordship died November 8, 1507, 23d of Henry the Seventh, four days after he had made his will, (for which see Appendix,) and was buried in the Monastery of the Black Friars, London. By his lady, who afterwards became the wife of Sir Richard Sacheverell, but without issue, Lord Hastings had one son, George, his heir,

\* Harl. MSS. 3881. p. 27.

created Earl of Huntingdon, as also a daughter, Ann, married to Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby.

Lady Hastings surviving her husband, had so much respect and esteem for Richard Sacheverell, Esq. who had served Lord Hastings in the office of Receiver-General of his whole revenue, that she gave him her manors of Stoke Poyeys, Chippenham, Fulmenes, Eyton, and Bechenton, Bonany, Burnam, East Burnam, and Tudlow, County of Bucks, for the term of his life, paying only the yearly rent of one red rose, upon the festivity of St. John the Baptist's Nativity, in case it should be demanded. In 1511, she took him to husband, and he, about the same time, received the dignity of Knighthood. Shortly after this her Ladyship, with Sir Richard's consent, legally provided for the appropriation of her manor and lordship of Aller with the More, during the term of seven years next after her decease, to procure the fulfilment of the following curious articles :

First, Whensoever she should fortune to depart this life, that her body should be buried in the church there, and not to be kept unburied above twenty-four hours after her death, nor any great dinner made for her.

Item, That immediately after her decease, forty trentals be done for her soul, as also a thousand masses with *Placebo* and *Dirige*, and every priest to have 6*d*.

Item, That as shortly as could be after, The grant she had of the house of Charter-house to be sold forth ; and that the said house have 16*l*.

Item, That fifty-one masses be done for her at the altars of *Scala Cæli* in England.

Item, That there should be 21*l*. given to bed-ridden persons, prisoners, and lazar-houses, within one year after her decease.

Item, That sixty trentals be said and done for Mr. Kebell's soul,

three for the soul of Roger Whittington, and that there be offered to our Lady of Walsingham, for the said Roger, 5s.

Item, That a priest do daily sing before the rood of Garrandon, County of Leicester, seven years after her decease.

Item, That the sum of one hundred marks be paid to the University of Oxford for the space of twenty years.

It appears that Sir Richard, in 1529, was one of the witnesses produced, touching the divorce then pending between King Henry the Eighth, and Queen Catharine, on which occasion he deposed, "that the commonalty did greatly disprove of that marriage, accounting it unfit that one brother should marry another brother's wife." In 1530, also, he was one of those who subscribed the famous letter to Pope Clement the Seventh, intimating, that in case he did not comply with King Henry's wishes in the business, his Holiness must expect that they would shake off his supremacy.

## CHAPTER IV.

SIR GEORGE, ONLY SON OF LORD EDWARD, AND FIRST EARL OF  
HUNTINGDON.

**GEORGE**, afterwards created Earl of Huntingdon, and the first of his family who bore that title, (which had remained dormant since the death, in 1491, without male issue, of its last possessor, William Herbert,) succeeded Lord Edward, of whom he was the only son and heir. Shortly after his father's decease, and being then a Knight, he petitioned the King, "That he might have the benefit of his own marriage, and marry at his own liberty; and also to have special livery of the manors of Ashby de la Zouch, and Barrow upon Soar, the Stewardships and Bailiwicks of the town of Leicester, and all those belonging to it, within the county, together with all the offices of the Forest and Chace of Leicester," binding himself to pay four thousand marks to his Majesty. He had, accordingly, without making proof of his use, a special livery of all the lands of which his father died possessed, amongst which were the aforesaid manors, and a tenement called Hastings-place, in Thames-street, London. He also obtained the office of Keeper to the several Parks of Frith, Beaumondleys Barrow, Tolee, and Stridley; and, in 1509, was appointed Steward of the manor of Enderley. In 1513, he accompanied Henry the Eighth, of whose Privy Council he was, in his expedition to France, and was present and assisting at the sieges and taking of Serouane and Tournay. This appears by a list of "The Captains, and Petty Captains, with the bagges and standerts of the army and vantgard of the Lefftenant enterieng into France, the

16th day of June, in the fifth year of the reign of Henry the Eighth, in which catalogue, the baggage of his Lordship, and that of two of his more immediate friends, is thus blazoned: "The Lord Hastings bayryth blew and blowkett, a bull's head sabull raessed with a crown about his neck, gold, and three sykells and garbes, gold." This same year he obtained, with Francis his son, from the Prioress of Grandieu, that they, or their survivors, should be Stewards of that nunnery, and of all the manors and lands in England, with all fees and rewards belonging thereto. In compensation for the great costs which his mother, and Sir Richard her husband, had been at concerning his estates, and the furtherance of his interest, he assigned to them, in 1517, the manor of Aller, and all the lands belonging to it, to enjoy during her life, and the disposal of the same for the term of seven years after her decease, in any manner, which they might agree to appoint. He likewise authorized them to set apart lands to the yearly value of twenty marks, for the purpose of founding an alms-house, where the poor might daily pray for their temporal prosperity and his own, and, after their deaths, for their spiritual benefit, and that of all Christian souls. In 1529, by favour of the King, he obtained a grant, to himself, and the heirs male of his body, of the manor of Evington, which came to the Crown by the forfeiture of Sir William Stanley, Knight. On the 3d of November, 1529, twenty-first of Henry the Eighth, at York Place, or Whitehall, he was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Huntingdon; Francis, his son and heir, being that same day summoned to Parliament, as Lord Hastings; and, the following year, he was one of the peers, who signed the beforementioned famous letter to Pope Clement. In 1531, July 5, he entered into an agreement with Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, and her son Henry, Lord Montacute, for a marriage, to be solemnized, before the festival of the Purification

then next ensuing, between Catherine, eldest daughter of her Ladyship, and Francis, Lord Hastings. The first article of this agreement stipulates, with ludicrous exactness, that the apparel of the bridegroom shall be at the costs of his father, and that of the bride at the charge of her mother, but that the expenses of meat and drink at the wedding shall be mutually and equally defrayed by both parties. Two years after this, the Abbot of Waltham Cross made his Lordship a lease, for the term of ninety years, of his house at Paul's Wharf, together with a piece of ground on the north side of it. In 1536, during the insurrection in the North, called "The Pilgrimage of Grace," occasioned by the dissolution of the monasteries, the Earl of Huntingdon offered his services to the King against the rebels. His Lordship's death took place on the 24th of March, 1544, thirty-sixth of Henry the Eighth, having made his will ten years before; and his remains were interred in the chancel of the Church at Stoke Pogies, county of Bucks, where his seat was situated. At the inquisition held four months after his decease at Crokehorn, in Somersetshire, the jury found that he died possessed of the manor of Halton, and the advowson of the church; the manors of Holbroke, Wotton-Courtney, Maperton, Hatherley, and Clapton; the hundred of Wellow, alias Kilmersdon; the manors of Babington, Kilmington, Walton, and Wellow; the manors of Newton St. Loe, with the advowson of the church; South-Cadbury, and the advowson of the church; Aller, and the advowson of the church; Allermore, Pensford, and Publow, all in the county of Somerset.

His Lordship married Anne, daughter of Henry Stafford, second Duke of Buckingham, and widow of Sir Walter Herbert, Knight, second son of William, first Earl of Pembroke, who was beheaded by the Lancastrians. By this lady who, surviving him, held Stoke Pogies as parcel of her dower, and was buried there, he had issue



five sons; first, Francis, his successor, about thirty years old at the time of his father's decease; second, Thomas; third, Edward; fourth, Henry; and fifth, William, which last died in 1556; and three daughters, Lady Dorothy, married to Sir Richard Devereux, eldest son of Walter, Viscount Hereford; Lady Mary, to Thomas, Lord Berkeley; and Lady Catherine. Before entering upon the history of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, we shall here introduce some account of his two brothers, Thomas and Edward.

Sir Thomas Hastings, second son of George, first Earl of Huntingdon, was knighted October 2, 1553, and placed in the commission of the peace for the town and county of Leicester. In the following year he was one of the knights for that county. He married Winifrede, one of the two daughters and coheirs of Henry Pole, Lord Montacute, which lady survived him, and had afterwards, for second husband, Sir Thomas Barrington, of Barrington in Essex, Knight. Sir Thomas departed this life soon after his marriage, as appears by the probate of his will, leaving no issue.

Sir Edward Hastings, third son of George, Earl of Huntingdon, obtained a grant from the King of the alnage of Wiltshire, for twenty-one years, and afterwards for the term of forty years, paying a yearly rent of 76*l.* 19*s.* In 1547, he represented the county of Leicester in Parliament, and, having the same year accompanied the Lord Protector, Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, into Scotland, on that occasion received the honour of Knighthood. He filled the office of Sheriff, for the counties of Leicester and Warwick, in 1551; and the same year was sent, in conjunction with the Earl, his elder brother, with a considerable body of forces to dislodge the French, posted betwixt Boulogne and Calais, both which towns were then occupied by the English. On the accession of Queen

Mary to the throne, in July, 1553, having a commission from his relation, the Duke of Northumberland, to raise four thousand infantry, principally in the county of Bucks, for the service of the Lady Jane Grey, he went over with that force to the Queen, by whom he was rewarded with the office of Receiver of the honour of Leicester, parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, in the Counties of Leicester, Warwick, Lancaster, and Nottingham; and soon after was constituted a Privy Counsellor, Master of the Horse,\* Lord Chamberlain, and Collector-General of all her revenues within the city of London, Middlesex, and Hertfordshire. He obtained leases about this time of the Rectories of Dalby Chaucombe, and Thrusington, and also of the manor of Oxlade, with a piece of land in Reresby. In the parliament held in 1554, he was one of the Knights for the County of Middlesex; and stood so high in the good graces of King Philip soon after his marriage to the Queen, that that Prince, by his letters of privy seal, dated at London, August 23, 1554, and directed to his treasurer, Dominic de Orbeo, granted him an annual pension of five hundred crowns of English money. Shortly after he was chosen, together with Lord Paget, to go on an embassy to the Emperor for the purpose of inviting Cardinal Pole to England; and in 1555, was elected one of the Knights Companions of

\* In his capacity of Master of the Horse, the following order was addressed to Sir Edward, by the Queen, the first year of her reign:

Marye the Quene,

We will and command you forthwith upon the sight hereof to deliver, &c. to our right trusty, and right well-beloved cousin and councillor, the Erle of Sussex, one geldyng out of our own stable, allowed unto him upon his claim for his service at our coronation to ride upon from the Tower to Westminster, with our cloke, as by a declaration thereof signed with the hands of our commissioners appointed for the hearing of these claymes playnly doth appear, &c. Given under our signet at our palace of Westminster, the xvith of October, the first year of our reigne.

To our trusty and right well beloved counsellor, Sir Edward Hastings, Knt. Master of our Horse.

the Order of the Garter. The same year he also obtained the manors of Market Bosworth, County of Leicester, and of Michelreche, County of Somerset, to himself and his heirs. Being zealously devoted to the Roman Catholic religion, certain monks, translated from Glastonbury to Westminster, solicited him, in a special letter, to remind the Queen, to expedite the design she had expressed, of restoring that once famous abbey, which purpose would have been accomplished but for the death of her Majesty. On the 1st of January, 1556, according to the etiquette of making new year's gifts to the sovereign, Sir Edward presented to Queen Mary 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in pistoles, and received in return a bowl, weighing twenty-six ounces and three quarters. He was next year constituted Deputy General to Thomas, Earl of Sussex, for the office of Justice in Eyre throughout all the forests north of Trent; and in consideration of his great fidelity, his devout turn of mind, which much delighted the Queen, his valour, and other virtues, he was on the 19th of January, 1557, advanced by her Majesty to the dignity of a baron of this realm, the first of her creation, by the title of Lord Loughborough, in the County of Leicester. There were present at the solemnity of his creation, Nicholas, Archbishop of York, then Lord Chancellor; Thomas, Bishop of Ely; William, Marquis of Winchester, Lord Treasurer; William, Lord Paget, Lord Privy Seal; Henry, Earl of Arundell; Henry, Earl of Westmoreland; Henry, Earl of Rutland; Francis, Earl of Huntingdon; Anthony, Viscount Montague; William, Lord Howard, of Effingham; Lord High Admiral of England; Sir Thomas Tresham, Knt. and many other eminent personages. In order to enable him to support the rank becoming this new dignity, which was further confirmed by other letters patent, dated the 21st of March following, and as an additional recompence for his great and continued ser-

vices, he had, soon after, a grant to him and the heirs male of his body, of the Great Park of Loughborough, &c. Queen Mary ended her short and unfortunate reign about the latter end of the next year ; and so deep was the impression made on his Lordship's mind by this circumstance, and such was his faithful and affectionate attachment to her Majesty, that he now determined to withdraw himself wholly from public life. Accordingly, from that period, down to the time of his death, which took place fourteen years after, we find little further mention of him, save that, in 1561, on occasion of the new year, he left his retirement to present to Queen Elizabeth the customary gift in specie, receiving a gilt cup and cover in return. " He was," says Burton, in his Description of Leicestershire, " a gentleman of great abilities, somewhat melancholy, and (I have heard spoken) much delighted with chess, a game well suited to his humour. He was so affectionate to Queen Mary, from whom he had received all his honours, that, she departing this life, he also bid farewell to the world, and not willing to live any longer in it, retired into an hospital, which he himself had built at Stoke Pogies, in Buckinghamshire, where, with poor people, (in the service of God, and devoted to his melancholy thoughts,) he ended his course in this life, dying without any issue." His death occurred on the 5th of March, 1572, and his remains were interred in the church of the hospital, at the upper end of which his achievements were displayed, and, in the east window, his figure, habited in a surcoat, and armour, kneeling at a desk ; on one side of his head, on a pendant shield, " E. H." ; on the other, on a similar shield, his crest, a Buffalo's Head, erased sable, gorged with a ducal coronet, and armed, Or ; a mullet for difference. On the surcoat, were six quarterings, twice repeated, but in the second instance, with some vari-

ation, and a seventh quartering introduced. In the south part of the church, was a small square stone, with the arms of Hastings.

His Lordship's wife, Joane, daughter of ———— surviving him, had, in lieu of her jointure off the lands of which he died possessed, an assignment made to her, in 1573, of Burley Park, parcel of the manor of Loughborough, and other lands ; and she further obtained, from the Queen, a grant of an annuity of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* during her life.

## CHAPTER IV.

FRANCIS, SECOND EARL OF HUNTINGDON, ELDEST SON OF GEORGE,  
THE FIRST EARL.

**F**RANCIS, second Earl of Huntingdon, who succeeded George, the first Earl, had summons to attend the parliament held in London the 3d of November, 1529, as a Baron of the realm, by the title of Lord Hastings, his father having been just then created Earl of Huntingdon. On the 3d of October, 1530, being then styled son and heir-general of George Earl of Huntingdon, he obtained the office of Steward to the monastery of Laund, and at the same time, the Stewardship of the Abbey of St. Mary's at Coventry, as also, jointly with Sir Richard Sacheverell, that of the Collegiate Church of St. Mary's, at Leicester. In 1538, he presented King Henry the Eighth, as a new year's gift, a glass of curious workmanship, with a cover garnished with gold, and his wife, on the same occasion, gave his Majesty two fine shirts of cambrick, both receiving appropriate gilt cups in return. Two days previous to the coronation of Queen Anne Bullen, in 1548, he was made Knight of the Bath; and on the 20th of February, 1546, at the coronation of Edward the Sixth, carried St. Edward's staff. At the feast, which was held in Westminster Hall on this latter occasion, his Lordship, together with the Earl of Oxford, had the honour of holding water to the King, having previously tasted it. In 1548, about four years after the death of his father, he passed, in quality of administrator, his accompt for that period, the form and items of which are curious. In a letter to the Earl of Shrewsbury, dated Ashby, September 12, 1549, the Earl of

Huntingdon excuses himself from going to his Lordship “to kill a stag or two,” in consequence of a rebellion in the counties of Leicester and Rutland, for which several had suffered death, and others were to be tried at Leicester before the Earl himself, and his Majesty’s Judge of Assize. He desires, in another letter, that certain persons, imprisoned in York Castle, should be liberated and taken into the army. His Lordship was, about this time, elected to the dignity of Knight of the Garter;\* and, in 1550, he had licence to retain one hundred servants, gentlemen and yeomen, over and above the ordinary establishment of his family and dependants. The same year he commanded an expedition sent to France for the purpose of dislodging the French from their position between Calais and Boulogne, which service he performed with skill and success. In 1551, he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire and Rutland; and, in consideration of his merit and great services, obtained a grant in fee-farm of the capital mansion of the manor-house of Gracedieu, in the county of Leicester, and also Myrrell Grange; the Rectory and Church of Belton, and advowson of the Vicarage; the Rectory and Church of Castle Donnington, and advowson of the Vicarage; Gracedieu, Myrrell, Charnwood, Belton, Osgathorpe, Thringeston, Castle Donnington Spittle, Castle Donnington, Long Whalton, Discworth, Swannington, Overton, Sawsye, Loughborough, Hathern, Knight Thorpe, and Shepshede, in the county of Leicester, all which were then lately part of the possessions of John Beaumont, Master of the Rolls. In 1552, he sat as one of the Peers on the trial of the Duke of Somerset, and was of the Privy Council to King Edward the Sixth, as appears by certain letters from the Lords to Queen Mary. On the

\* In the eleventh stall of St. George’s Chapel, (being the fifth on the Sovereign’s side,) on a brass plate of arms is inscribed—“Du tres noble et puissant Seigneur Francois Conte de Huntingdon, Seigneur Hastyns du Hungerford, Butroys, et de Molines, Chevalier du tres noble Ordre de la Jaretiere, et first enstalle le 3 an du regne du nostre Souverain Edward le VI.”





Mary the Queen



copied from Verelst by D. B. Baker

Your most humble son  
John Dudley

Your gracious humble daughter  
Jane Dudley

insurrection of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, the following year, he raised forces against him, and brought him prisoner to the Tower of London. Concerning this subject, the Earl of Arundell, in a letter to the Earl of Shrewsbury, written about the end of January, 1553, says, "The Duke of Suffolk is on Friday also stolen from his house at Shene, and roone away with his two brethren into Leicestershire, for he was mett at Stony Stratford. My Lord of Huntingdon is goon into those parts after him, wt . . . . . ageynst him. The Duke is proclaymed trayer." Another letter to the Earl of Shrewsbury from Robert Swifte, dated April 12, 1554, adds, "The Erll of Huntingdon, furnished with eleven horsemen, with staves and bowes, brought thowrow London upon Saterdaye at afternoon, the Dewke of Suffolke, and the Lord Thomas his brother, and so conducted them to the Towre. The Lord Thomas was taken goynge towards Walles, and is cuming up, and notwithstanding that the said Dewke and Wyott, withe the moste parte of his captaynes, remaynes as yet in the Towre, yet ther is nyghtlye wache in the cownte, on hernes, and day and night in London. This day my Ladye Jane was beheaded in the Towre, and the Lord Gylforde, her husband, on the Towre-hill.\*

\* The conduct of this ill-fated Lady, and her husband, in their last moments, is thus related by our earlier historians.

"The twelfe of Februarie, being Mondaie, about ten of the clocke, there went out of the Tower to the scaffold on the Tower-hill, the Lord Gilford Dudleie, sonne to the Duke of Northumberland, husband to the Ladie Jane Greie, daughter to the Duke of Suffolk; and without the bulwarke-gate, maister Thomas Offere, one of the Shiriffes of London received him, and brought him to the scaffold, where, after a small declaration, he kneeled downe and said his praiers. Then holding up his eies and hands to heaven with teares, at the last he desired the people to praie for him, and after he was beheaded, his bodie being laid in a cart and his head in a cloth, was brought into the Chappell within the Tower, where the Ladie Jane, whose lodging was in the maister Partridge's house, did see his dead carcasse taken out of the cart, as well as she did see him before alive going to his death; a sight, as might be supposed, to her worse than death. By this time there

On new-year's day, 1553, the Earl of Huntingdon presented to King Edward, in a purse of red silk, five sovereigns and eight half

was a scaffold made upon the Greene, over against the White Tower for the Ladie Jane to die upon, who being nothing at all abashed, neither with fear of her own death, which then approached, neither with the sight of the dead carcase of hir husband when he was brought into the chapel, came forth, the Lieutenant leading hir with countenance nothing abashed, neither her eies anie thing moistened with teares, with a booke in her hand, wherein she prayed until she came to the said scaffold whereon she was mounted. This noble young Ladie, as she was indued with singular gifts both of learning and knowledge, so was she as patient and mild as anie lamb at hir execution, and little before hir death uttered these words: Good people, I com hither to die, and by a lawe I am condemned to the same. The facte indede against the Queene's highness was unlawful, and the consenting thereunto by me, but touching the procurement and desyne thereof by me, or on my halfe, I doo wash my hands thereof, in innocence before God, and the face of you good Christian people this day;" and therewith she wrong hir handes in which she had her booke. Then she sayd, "I pray you all good Christian people, to bere me wytnes that I dye a true Christian woman, and that I looke to be saved by none other menes, but only by the mercy of God in the merits of the blood of his onely Sonne, Jesu Christe; and I confess, when I dyd know the word of God, I neglected the same, and loved myselfe and the world, and therefore this plage and punyshment is happily and worthely happened unto me for my sinnes. And yet I thanke God of his goodnes that he hath thus given me a tyme and respet to repent. And now, good people while I am alyve, I pray you to assist me with your prayers." And then she knelyng downe, she turned to Fecknam, saying, "Shall I say this Psalm," and he said, "Yea." Then she said the Psalm of Miserere mei Deus in English, in most devout manner to thende. Then she stode up, and gave her mayde Mistres Tylney her gloves and handkercher; and her booke to Maistre Thomas Brydges, the Lyvetenantes brother. Forthwith she untyed hyr gowne. The hangman went to her to have helped hir of therewith; then she desyred him to let her alone, turning towardes her two gentlewomen, who helped her of therewith, and also her frese, paste, and neckecher, giving to her a fayre handkercher to knytte about her eyes. Then the hangman kneeled downe, and asked her forgiveness, whome she forgave most willingly. Then he willed her to stand upon the strawe, which doing she sawe the blocke. Then she sayd, "I pray you despatche me quickly." Then she kneeled downe, saying, "Will you take it of before I lay me downe." And the hangman answered her, "No Madame." She tyed the kercher about her eies: then feeling for the blocke, said, "What shall I do, where is it?" One of the standers by guyding her therunto, she layde her head down upon the blocke, and stretched forth her body and sayde, "Lorde, into thy handes I commend my spirite." And so she ended. "This," says Holinshed, "was the end of the Lord Gilford and Lady Jane, whose deaths were the more hastened for feare of further troubles and stirs for her title, like as her father had attempted. Touching

sovereigns, amounting to 10*l*. and received in return a gilt cup and cover, weighing twenty ounces. In 1556, his Lordship, and the Countess his wife, made similar presents to Queen Mary; and again, together with the young Lord Hastings, to Queen Elizabeth, on the 1st of January, 1558, the parties receiving from their Majesties respectively suitable cups in return. Not long before Queen Mary's death, his Lordship was a principal officer in the army at

this Ladie Jane, in the high commendation of her godlie minde, I find this report in Maister Fox's Appendix of his Acts and Monuments, namelie, that being on a time when she was verie young, at Newhall in Essex, at the Lady Marie's, she was by one Ladie Anne Wharton desired to walke, and they passing by the Chapell, the Ladie Wharton made low curtsie to the Popish sacrament hanging on the altar, which, when the Ladie Jane saw, she marvelled why she did so; and asked her whether the Ladie Marie were there or not. Unto whome the Ladie Wharton answered, No, but she said that she made her curtsie to him that made us all. "Why," quoth the Ladie Jane, "how can he be there that made us all, and the baker made him?" This hir answer coming to the Ladie Marie's eare, she did never love her after, as is crediblie reported, but esteemed hir as the rest of that Christian profession."

Of Catherine Grey, the second daughter, Dr. Fuller says, "'Tis a pity to part the sisters, that their memories may mutually condole and comfort one another. She was born in the same place, and (when her father was in height) married to Henry Lord Herbert, son and heir to the Earl of Pembroke; but the politic old Earl, perceiving the case altered, and what was the high way to honour turned into the ready road to ruin, got pardon from Queen Mary, and broke the marriage quite off. This Heraclita, or Lady of Lamentation, thus repudiated, was seldom seen with dry eyes for some years together, sighing out her sorrowful condition, so that though the roses on her cheeks looked very wan and pale, it was not for want of watering. Afterwards Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, married her privately, without the Queen's licence, and concealed it till her pregnancy discovered it. Indeed, our English proverb, "It is good to be near a-kin to land," holdeth in private patrimonies, not titles to Crowns, where such alliance hath created so many much molestation. Queen Elizabeth beheld her with a jealous eye, unwilling she should match either foreign Prince or English Peer, but follow the pattern she set her of constant virginity. For their presumption, the Earl was fined 15,000*l*. imprisoned with his Lady in the Tower, and severely forbidden her company: but love and money will find or force a passage. By bribing the Keeper, he bought (what was his own) his wife's embraces, and had by her a surviving son Edward, ancestor to the Duke of Somerset. She died Jan. 26, 1567, a prisoner in the Tower, after nine years durance therein."

that time raised; and, in 1560, was master of the hart hounds to Queen Elizabeth. This much esteemed and highly meritorious nobleman died June 20th, 1561, and, conformably to the directions in his will, made the year before, was buried at Ashby de la Zouch church, where a fine monument was erected to his memory, with the following plain inscription round its verge: "Here lyeth the corpse of Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Hastynges, Hungerford, Botreaux, Molyns, and Moels, Knt. of the most noble Order of the Garter, elected third of Edward Sixth, whiche deceased June 20, 1561, third of Eliz. and." (as was added fifteen years after, on the death of his wife) "of the Lady Katharine, Countess of Huntingdon, his wife, whiche deceased y<sup>e</sup> xxiii day of September, Anno Dni. 1576." Of this tomb, which Mr. Symonds in 1645, calls "a stately monument of alabaster, having many escutcheons, with large quarterings," we copy the following description:

"The chapel on the south side of the church appears to have been repaired and fitted up about the latter end of the seventeenth century, not alone from a monument of that time, set up in it for Theophilus, Seventh Earl of Huntingdon, but by the mode of the wainscoting, its architecture, and ornaments, which, however ill they may accord (being in the Roman and Grecian style) with the ancient work, yet it was certainly a most praise-worthy act of those who thought it an incumbent duty on them to render this chapel a decent and respectable repository, which contained the remains of so illustrious a family as the Huntingdons, and so fine a sculptured memorial of one of its noblest names, a tomb to the memory of Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, and his Countess, the Lady Katharine.

"This tomb is in that mixed style of architecture which prevailed near the end of the sixteenth century. It shews much of our ancient

modes of design, and much of the Roman and Grecian compilations, which were then gaining such an ascendancy in all our public works. On the sides of the tomb are several ancient shields, with Grecian enriched pilasters, pedestals, and swaggs of drapery, all unaccountably joined together. Our ancient tomb arrangement, however, here still predominates ; for we notice amid the above shields and pilasters, small statues of the several sons and daughters of the deceased, placed in niches, &c. with their respective names underneath, according to seniority. On the top of the tomb are the recumbent statues of the noble personages meant to be commemorated.

“ The statue of the Earl is shewn in exceedingly rich armour. From his shoulders depends the robe of the Order of the Garter, fastened at the neck by an elaborate worked broche, from which fall the cordons. Over the shoulders is hung a collar of the order. On his head is a coronet, supported by his helmet, bearing his crest, a buffalo's head, erased sable, and his feet rest on a lion. The vestments of the Countess are of a far older make than either the fashion of the Earl's armour, or the date of the tomb, leads us to expect. She is habited in a loose garment, brought into small folds by her girdle. Her hair appears on the forehead, and the lower part of her face is covered by the wimple, under which a loose robe, fastened on the breast by the cordons, flows to the feet. From the top of her head, whereon is a coronet, a light drapery falls as far as the elbows, adding much grace to the general dress of this lady. Her feet are supported by a griffin, a circumstance not common, as in such instances we usually meet with one or more representations of dogs.

“ The features of the Earl shew him of a middle age, with a stern

though dignified aspect. The lady has much softness in her looks ; and a pleasing sweetness is diffused over her whole countenance.

“ It would be difficult to speak in terms adequate to the merits of the work of this tomb, either in its architectural parts, enrichments, or statues. The mouldings are sharp cut, the ornaments delicately made out, the forms of the statues well imitated from the life, and the armour and draperies finely studied from the real objects, so that from this interesting performance much information may be obtained of the progress of the arts and the costume of this kingdom. Though the tomb at present stands with its east end directly against the east wall of the chapel, I am inclined to think it originally was detached from it, and was situated in the centre of this building, as is the usual custom with the tombs of founders of chapels, or other patrons to such edifices, as in many instances such examples may yet be found ; and the chancel of the collegiate church at Warwick, with the adjoining chapel, may just be noted in proof, where are the tombs of many of the Earls of that name, the great patrons of that church and town. And further, on the east wall of the chapel now under discussion, are stuck shields of arms like those on the sides of the tomb, which, if we allow the removal of it to have been the case, as premised, must have decorated its east end in like manner as on the west end. Hence we may account for setting up the tablets and semi-circular arch, containing shields of arms, with an urn on their summit, against the east wall, and directly before the tomb, which are of a taste not known among us before the time of the fitting up of this chapel in 1698.”

His Lordship married Catharine, eldest daughter and co-heir to Henry Pole, Lord Montacute, (brother to Cardinal Pole, and son and heir of Sir Richard Pole, Knight of the Garter, by his wife Marga-

ret, Countess of Salisbury, daughter of George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence, brother to Edward the Fourth, and heiress to her brother Edward, Earl of Warwick, who was the last heir male of the royal house of Plantagenet, and beheaded in 1499, by command of Henry the Seventh,) and by her (who, surviving him many years, was administratrix to Cardinal Pole her uncle, and, in 1569 and 1571, had a new grant of lands in Hertfordshire) had six sons,—1. Henry, his heir and successor, 2. George, 3. William, 4. Edward, of whom Hans Francis, the present Earl, is the eldest lineal male descendant, 5. Francis, and 6. Walter ; and five daughters, viz. Catherine, married to Henry Clinton, Earl of Lincoln ; Frances, to Henry Lord Compton ; Elizabeth to Edward Somerset, Earl of Worcester ; and Anne and Mary, who both died unmarried. Of this last lady, who was pre-eminently distinguished in her time, as a perfect model of female loveliness, and who was designed to be the wife of Lord Bulbeck, son and heir to John Earl of Oxford, Sir Jerome Horsey, in his Observations of certain Transactions in Russia, makes the following very curious and interesting mention. “ Juan Vassillivich, Great Duke and Emperor of Russia, having a desire to marry an English lady, was told of the Lady Mary Hastings, daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon, whom, being of the blood royal, he began to affect : whereupon, making his desires known to Queen Elizabeth, (who did well approve thereof,) he sent over Theodore Pissemskoie, a nobleman of great account, his Ambassador, who, in the name of his master, offered great and advantageous terms to the Queen, in case the marriage took effect, and promised that the issue by this lady should inherit his throne. The Ambassador thus arriving in England was magnificently entertained, and admitted audience. The Queen hereupon caused the lady to be attended with divers ladies and young noblemen, that so the Ambassador might have a sight of her, which was ac-



complished in York House Garden, near Charing Cross, London. There was he (attended also with divers men of quality) brought into her presence, and casting down his countenance, fell prostrate before her, then rising back with his face still towards her, (the lady with the rest admiring at his strange salutation,) he said, by his interpreter, "it sufficed him to behold the angelical presence of her who, he hoped, would be his master's spouse and Empress," and seemed quite ravished with her angelical countenance, state, and beauty. After this interview, she was called Empress of Moscovia, by her friends in Court; but the Queen, as well as the young lady herself, understanding that (according to the laws of those countries) the Emperor might turn away his wife when he pleased, took occasion to put a stop to the overture." \*

Of his Lordship's six sons, Henry and Sir George, the two eldest, were successively Earls of Huntingdon, and William, the third son, died without issue. Of the fourth son, Sir Edward, as ancestor of the present Earl, we shall speak fully hereafter. Sir Francis, the fifth son, who received the honour of Knighthood from Queen Elizabeth, was of North Cadbury, in Somersetshire, for which county he was Justice of the Peace, and Knight in several parliaments during her reign, and that of her successor. He received his education at Magdalen College, Oxford, under Dr. Laurence Humphrey, from whose instructions he is said to have imbibed those opinions, which tended to form him a severe puritan and predestinarian. Sir Francis was a man of talent and literature, and distinguished himself

\* It is matter of surprise, perhaps even of regret, that the melo-drame-mongers, and opera manufacturers of our days, when, as it would seem for lack of original invention, or legitimate materials, every romance is deformed into a drama, and dragged to theatrical execution, should have overlooked this interesting story, abounding, as it appears to me, in dramatic, and particularly operatic, capabilities.

in the religious and political disputations of his times. He published, in 1598, a treatise entitled, "A Watchword to all religious and true-hearted Englishmen," which involved him in a controversy with N. Doleman, otherwise Robert Parsons, who, in a reply entitled "The Wardword," with that intemperate and indecorous acrimony, which commonly marks the want of argument, and degrades, much more than defeat, a foiled antagonist, calls Sir Francis "the meanest beagle of the house of Huntingdon." Fuller, in his "Worthies of Leicestershire," makes honourable mention of Sir Francis, who, he says, "wrote a learned book in defence of our religion, rather carped at than confuted by Parsons in his "Three Conversions." In the parliamentary discussions of that period, he took a leading part; and although at first very violent against the Roman Catholics, he afterwards relaxed in his hostility towards them so far as to join Sir Richard Knightly, of Northamptonshire, in presenting a petition for their toleration. This circumstance gave occasion, among some of his enemies, to the invidious remark, "that the Puritan could join the Papist against the Church of England." But amidst the graver and severer labours of the senator and polemic, Sir Francis was a lover of elegant literature, and the few specimens of his poetry, which have been preserved, give no unfavourable evidence of his taste, and the success with which he cultivated the Muses. He, as well as his brother, was a great benefactor to Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He married Maud, widow of Sir George Vernon, Knt. daughter of Sir Ralph Longford, and co-heir to her brother Nicholas Longford, Esq. and dying without issue, was buried with his lady, whom he survived many years, in the Church of North Cadbury. To her memory he caused to be erected, on the north side of the chancel, a large tomb covered with Gothic ornaments, and representing cherubs bearing the family arms, with his own statue clad

in armour, and that of his wife by his side. A brass plate fixed in the wall bears the following inscription, of which the prolixity is fully compensated by the spirit of tenderness and religion which it breathes, as well as the poetic aptitude of expression distinguishable in many of the stanzas.

“ The Epitaph of that worthy, religious ladye, the Ladye Magdalen Hastynges, wife to Francis Hastynges, Knt. who departed this vain and transitory life, 14th June, 1596, and continued a constant professor of God, his Holy Truth, and Gospels, to her life's end.

This ladye's bed, that here you see thus made,  
Hath to itself received a sweete guest,  
Her life is spent, whiche doth like flower fade,  
Freede from all storms, and here shee lyes at rest,  
Till soul and body join'd again are one,  
Then, farewell grave ! from hence shee must be gone.

This ladye was well born and eke well bred,  
Her virgin's time she spent with worthy praise,  
When choice of friends brought her to marriage bed,  
With just renown she passed there her days ;  
And though her youth were tyde to age far spent,  
Yet without spot she lived, and was content.

Her second match she made by her own choice,  
Pleasing herselfe who others pleased before,  
Her ears she stopped from all diswaders voice,  
Who did her tender wealth and goods great store,  
With honour greate, whiche bothe shee did refuse,  
And one of meaner state herself did chuse.

With this her choice full twenty years and nine  
She did remain, with joy and comfort greate,  
He liveth not that ever went between  
These twoe, to move a peace, or to intreate;  
God made the matche, and God the knot hee tyde,  
Who in his feare did both their hearts still guide.

This fear of God was grafted in her by grace,  
 And her whole tyme shee spent in this true feare,  
 God's Gospel pure with haste she did embrace,  
 The fruits whereof to all men did appear.  
 To husband true, to kindred she was kinde,  
 And to all friends did beare a loving minde.

The preachers she did use with greate regarde,  
 Which shew'd her love unto this Gospel pure;  
 Where want there was shee prest was to rewarde,  
 And with her will no such should want endure.  
 Unto the truth such was her zeal moste rare,  
 As to helpe such shee from herselfe would spare.

The poore shee still was willing to relieve,  
 With heart and hand not seeking worldlie praise,  
 For few or none should know what she did give,  
 This course to keep shee careful was alwaies;  
 Both rich and poore they tasted of her love,  
 More ready she to give than they to move.

If any one of these her help did neede,  
 By being sicke or sore of any sorte,  
 Let them but send, they were most sure to speede,  
 Of what she had that might them yield comforte,  
 And yeare by yeare she sought such thynges to make,  
 To serve such turns as might be fitt to take.

In government of those that did her serve,  
 Most wise, most stout, most kind, shee ever was,  
 Most kind to such as sought well to deserve,  
 Most stout to those who did neglect their place;  
 She wisely could correct the faults of these,  
 And those encourage that would seek to please.

These giftes of grace from God she did receive,  
 And shee in these her life did wholly spende.  
 When sickness came that did her health bereave,  
 On God's good will she wholly did depende,  
 And then his grace did worke in her with might,  
 For him to please it was her sole delight.

She did not grudge, nor murmur at her paine,  
 Though paines were great, and lasted very long,  
 Resting on high her hope of future gaine,  
 Than hearte could think, or could be tould by tongue;  
 Comfortes she sought because her flesh was frail,  
 By preachers sounde which never did her faile.

When that her sickness did her soe restraine,  
 As that her house shee forced was to keep,  
 Shee did intreate three preachers to take paine  
 Her to instructe and stay from dangers deepe.  
 And this they did by turns one week bestowe,  
 In lore most sound, till she too weake did growe.

When pangs grew great shee found but little rest,  
 Yet faith was strong in God, her father deare,  
 And from this faith she found it alwaies best  
 To praise her God, and praise to him in fear,  
 And to this end the preachers she would call  
 To come to her, who failed her not at all.

In all her dangers she did never faile,  
 From day to day, to crave their help in this,  
 For them to seek it did not much avall,  
 For them to call shee did but seldom miss,  
 Thrise many times, and most times twice a day,  
 That shee with them, and they with her might pray.

These were the fruits of one that learned had  
 To serve her God in sickness, health, and all:  
 In health to fear, in sickness to be glad,  
 Though flesh be fraill and find itself in thrall;  
 This fruite came not from father Adam's tree,  
 Our second Adam taught her such to bee.

This then she was, and was unto the ende,  
 This did shee show; many can witness this;  
 This to be true none neede doubt to defende;  
 Wee rest in woe, and shee is gone to bliss,  
 Where God this ladye in his armes doth take,  
 And crowne with glorie for Christ Jesus' sake.

Vivit post Funera Virtus."

A blank was left on the tomb for the name of Sir Francis, which, by some strange neglect, was never inserted.

Walter, the sixth and youngest son, was of Kirby, and marrying Joyce, or Jocosa, daughter of Christopher Roper, of Linsted, in Kent, Esq. and sister to Sir John, created Lord, Teynham, had by her one son, Sir Henry Hastings, of Kirby, and afterwards of Braunston, Knt. who, like the rest of his kindred, was firmly attached to the royal cause during the civil wars, and paid 2072*l.* to the usurping party for redeeming his estates.

Of these six sons of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, it was observed, “ that they agreed better in temper and affection than in persuasion and principle ;” some of them continuing steadfast adherents to the Roman Catholic religion, and the rest as zealously embracing Protestantism ; notwithstanding which, the utmost harmony and fraternal affection prevailed amongst them.

## CHAPTER VI.

OF HENRY, THE THIRD EARL OF HUNTINGDON, ELDEST SON AND SUCCESSOR  
OF FRANCIS, THE SECOND EARL.

**HENRY**, third Earl of Huntingdon, eldest son and heir of Francis, second Earl, was married in 1553, being then about eighteen years of age, at Durham, now called Northumberland, House, in the Strand, London, to Catharine, daughter of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland. In 1557, he obtained a grant of the office of Steward of the Prince's fee in Leicester; and in 1559, during the life-time of his father, was summoned to attend parliament. The following year he was appointed to the office of the Hart Hounds; and Earl Francis, confiding in his son's care and discretion, made him supervisor of all his estates, with the power of granting leases. Having, by the death of his father, succeeded to the Earldom on the 20th of June, 1561, at the age of twenty-six years, he next day petitioned Queen Elizabeth for livery of all his honours, castles, manors, &c.; and on the next New Year's Day, himself, the Countess his wife, and the Countess Dowager, his mother, presented three purses to her Majesty; his own of the value of 15*l.*, and the two others of 10*l.* respectively; in return for which, each of them received a suitable gilt cup. In 1562, he obtained a grant of lands in Leicestershire and Warwickshire; and was about that time cited to show by what title he held the manor of Wotton Court, in the County of Somerset. The same year he purchased from his uncle,

Edward, Lord Hastings, of Loughborough, for 2625*l.* the inheritance of the Manor of Bosworth, with the advowson of the parsonage, under a proviso, that if that sum was repaid into his hands before the October next following, the bargain should be void. In the month of June of this year, he received the Queen's express command to prepare himself, his wife, and suite, in such splendid manner as might best become his rank, and the importance of the occasion, to attend her Majesty, and be present, at an interview then concerted to take place between her and Mary Queen of Scots, at York, or some other place convenient to Trent. The following is a copy of the order on this subject addressed by her Majesty to the Earl of Huntingdon:

“ Elizabeth R.

“ Right trusty and right well-beloved cousin, we greet you well. Forasmuch as a meeting and interview betwixt us and our good sister and cosyn the Quene of Scotts, hath bene of long time motioned to be had some time this summer, which as we are accorded shall take effect about Bartholomew tide next, eyther at our Citty of Yorke, or some other convenient place on this side neere unto Trent. We meaning to have you there, to attend upon us, as is meet for the degree and place which you hold, do will and require you to put yourself (our cousin) your wife and your trains in order to attend on you both, being so many in number as at the least twenty-six of them may remain to attend upon you both about our Court, and be ready to meet us on the way near unto Trent, at such place and day of the month of August next, as shall be signified to you by our Chamberlain, or some others of the Councill, at the furthest before the midst of July; for seeing that the array of yourselfe, your wife, and your trains, may be according to the best of your



states and degrees, and meetest for the honour and presence of such an interview. Given under our signet at our Manor of Grenewiche, the 16th of June, in the fourth yere of our reigne.”

In 1564, his Lordship was exonerated from the payment of a fee farm rent for the demesne of Gracedieu, and its dependencies. About this time his title to the Crown of England, by descent from the Duke of Clarence, was a subject of much conversation and surmise in political circles, as well as a source of great private uneasiness to himself, inasmuch as he had received, it was said, some marks of displeasure from the Queen, whose jealousy about the succession is well known. On that occasion his Lordship addressed, to his brother-in-law the Earl of Leicester, the annexed letter, which throws some light on Elizabeth’s feelings, and in which he disclaims all ambitious pretensions in so decided a tone, and accompanied with such sentiments, as are equally honourable to his character as a loyal subject and an excellent and amiable man:

“ My honourable good Lord; I am sorry that my present disease is such that there are left me but these two remedyes, eyther to swallow up those bitter pills lately receyved, or to make you a partner of my griefes, thereby something to ease a wounded heart. At my wive’s last being at Court to doe her duty as became her, it pleased her Majesty to give her a privy nippe, especially concerning myselfe, whereby I perceive she hath some jealous conceipt of me, and, as I can imagine, of late digested. How farr I have been alwayes from conceyting any greatness of myselfe, nay, how ready I have been alwayes to shunne applauses, both by my continual lowe saile and my carriage, I doe assure myselfe is best knowne to your Lordship, and the rest of my nearest friends; if not

myne owne conscience shall best cleare me from any such follye. Alas! what could I hope to effect in the greatest hopes I might imagine to have in the obteyning the least likelyhood of that height? Will a whole Commonwealth deprive themselves of soe many blessings presently enjoyed, for a future hope uncertaine? Inferiour to many others both in degree, and any princely quality fitt for a prince; for a prince both for excellent qualities and rare vertues of nature; of great hopes; of an inestimable blessing by her princely issue in reason of her youth; for a poore subject in years, and without any greate hope of issue? Noe, noe; I cannot be persuaded they would, if I should be so foolishly wicked to desire it, or that my minde were so ambitiously inclined. I hope her Majesty will be persuaded of better thynges in me, and cast this conceipt behinde her; and that a foolish booke, foolishly written, shall not be able to possess her princely inclination with soe badde a conceipt of her faithful servant, who desires not to lyve but to see her happye. What grieve it hath congealed within my poore heart (but ever true), let your Lordship judge, whose prince's favour was allwayes more deare unto me than all other worldly felicityes whatsoever. This I am bold to make knowne to your Lordship; humbly desiring the same, when you see your opportunity to frame a new heart in her Majesty's princely brest, whose power I know is not little in effecting of farr greater matters than this: for never shall there be a truer heart in any subject than I will carry to her Majestie soe longe as I breathe. And soe I rest your poore servant and brother,

“ H. HUNTINGDON.”

In 1565, he purchased from Robert Brokesby, Esq. of Sywoldby, for 360*l.* the Lordship of Shakerston; and in the same year, and the two following, was cited to show by what title he held the manors of

Pensford and Publowe, in Somersetshire, and those of Quorndon, of Belton, and Market Bosworth. Having obtained a grant from the Crown of divers houses and lands, lying within the town and parish of Ashby de la Zouch, (part of which had been, in former times, given for the maintenance of certain obits in the church of Ashby,) he, together with Edward, Lord Hastings, of Loughborough, and others, provided off those lands, which, on inquisition, were found to be of the value of 120*l.* a year, for the perpetual maintenance of a schoolmaster, “to teach the youth good manners and learning in a fitting place for that purpose.” In 1569, we find his Lordship associated with the Earls of Hereford and Shrewsbury, in the important charge of the custody of Mary, Queen of Scots, about the time of her removal from Tutbury to Coventry, and, subsequently, to Lord Shrewsbury’s own castle at Sheffield. In this capacity he is noticed by Dr. Robertson with some degree of asperity and censure, which ought to be received with proper deductions on the score of national prejudice. “Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon,” says that historian, “who pretended to dispute with the Scottish Queen her right to the succession, being joined in commission with Shrewsbury, rendered her imprisonment more intolerable by the excess of his vigilance and rigour.” The following letters, referring to this business, will be found interesting, in a double point of view, as connected with the history of that most unfortunate Queen, and as illustrating the life of the Nobleman under consideration.

“To our right trusty and right well beloved cousyn, therle  
of Huntingdon.

“Elizabeth R.

By the Quene.

“Right trusty and right well-beloved cousyn, we grete you well.  
Having certain matters of some importance to be imparted unto

youe for our service, wherein we do assure ourself of your faithfulness, we have thought good to send unto youe our trusty and wel-beloved servaunt, Henry Skipwith, Esquier, one of our Esquiers, to declare our mynd unto you; whom we requier youe to creditte and accordyng to the same to imploy your diligence; and as tyme shall requier to advertise us of any thing that shall seme to youe mete for our understanding. Gyven under our signet at our towne of Southampton, the XIIth day of September, 1569, the XI year of our reign."

Endorsed in the Earl of Huntingdon's hand-writing, "Brought by Mr. Skypwyth, the 17th of 7ber, 1569."

"To the Right Honourable my very good lord therle of Huntingdon his good Lordship."

"My very good Lord. After my hearty commendations. Whereas I have received the Quene's Majesties letters by this bearer Mr. Skipwith, who (as I understand) brought her Highnesse letters to your Lordshippe, and to my Lord Hereford, contayning her Majesties pleasure touching the Quene of Scots, I thought it necessary to desire your Lordshippe, that, for the better service of her Majestye and accomplishment of her pleasure and commandment, ye will please to take the paynes to repaire speedily hither unto me at Wingfield, with my said Lord Hereford, to the end we may, upon conference, determine how to proceed best according to our duties, as well for the safe keeping of the said Quene from any attempts, as also for her remove hence to some other place more convenient. And so I bid your good Lordshippe right heartily as well to fare as I wish to myselfe. From Wingfield, the 18th of September, 1569. Your good Lordshippes assured friend,

"G. SHREWSBURY"

“ By reason of my needful attendance upon my chardges, and for want of helth, I am not able to meet you elsewhere as my desire is.”

“ To our right trusty and right well beloved cosin the Erle of Huntingdon.

“ Elizabeth R.

By the Quene.

“ Right trusty and right well beloved cosin we grete you well. Whereas we understand that our cousin of Shrouesbury is much trobled with sickness, and like to fall furder into the same in such sort as he neither presently is able, nor shall be to continue in the charge which he hath to kepe the Quene of Scots. We have, for a present remedy and to avoyd the danger that might ensew, made choice of you to take the charg of the custody of hir, until we shall otherwise order. And, therefore, we earnestly require you with all spede to repaire to our cosin of Shrouesbury, with some of your owne trusty servants, and there to take the charge of the said Quene ; wherewith our said cosin wil be so well content, as we dowte not but you shall have all that he can command to be serviceable unto you. And though this direction of you may seme presently sodayne and strange, for you to take charge of hir in any other person's house than your owne ; yet the infirmity of our said cosin, with the mistrust he hath of a greater, and the request he hath made unto us to have some help in this cawse, with other cawses that we have to dowte of some escape of the said Quene, moveth us to use this speedy order ; meaning as sone as occasion may furder permitt to devise withe shortly to deliver that she shal be removed to some other meter place where you may have the wholl commandment. We wold have you also, after conference with our said cousin of Shrouesbury, to devise how the number of the Quene of Scott's

trayne might be diminished and reduced only to thirty persons of all sorts, as was ordered, but, as we perceive, to be much enlarged of late time. You shall also, joyntly with the Erle of Shrouesbury, give order that no such comen resort be to the Quene as hath ben; nor that she have such liberty to send posts as she hath don, to the great burden of our poore subjects. And if she shall have any speciall cause to send to us, then you shall so permitt her servant with the warrant of your hand, and none to come otherwise. And if you shall think of any meter place to kepe hir, we requier you to advertise us thereof, so that we may take order for the same. We have written to our cosin of Shrouesbury, whom we have willed to impart to you the contents of our lettre. And so we will have you to do these; *trusting that you will so consider hereof, as the cause requireth for our honour and quietnes, without respect of any person.* Gyven under our signet, at the manour of the Vyne, the XXIIInd of September, 1569, the XIth yere of our reigne."

" Pt. script.

[Verte.]

" After we had considered of some part of the premises, we thought in this sort to alter some part thereof. We will that no person shall be suffered to come from the Quene of Scotts with any message or lettre. But if she will write to us, you shall offer to send the same by one of yours. And so we will you to do; for our meaning is, that for a season she shall nether send nor receave any message or lettres without our knowledg."

Endorsed by the Earl of Huntingdon, " Hir Majestyes fyrste lettres for the takyng of the charge of Quene of Scots with my Lord of Shrouesbury. Brought to me by Browne, my Lord of Shr. man."

“ To the Right Honourable my very good Lord the Erle of Huntingdon.

“ My honourable good lord. After that hir Majestie had ordered hir letter to be wrytten, she commanded my Lord of Leicester and me to wryte unto your Lordshipp; and so I did cause a letter to be wrytten, which cometh unto you signed by us both. Here hath bene this daye sonedry opinions in consell with her Majestie: some that your Lordshipp should have charge of the Quene of Scotts, at Ashby; others, that Mr. Chancellor of the Duchy shuld come to Tutbury, and delyver your Lordshipp and accompany the Earl of Shrouesbury; others that he shuld have the charg alone at Tutbury, and both my Lord of Shrouesbury and your Lordshipp discharged; others that Mr. Chancellor shuld be with you at Ashby, wherein no mistrust was had of you, but to excuse the challendg which the Quene of Scots maketh to you.\* The dyversite of these opinions wold produce no certin resolution. Hereupon it was concluded that Mr. Skypwith shuld be sent, to thend, upon some further knowledg, we might better fall to some resolution. And thus I am bold to impart many things, praying your Lordshipp to use them well, and as you see cause to impart any thyng of your mynd, as you will have me use it faythfully and honestly towards you, for so I am resolved to be towards your Lordshipp. I also in secrett send you a copy of the Quene Majesties letters. Your Lordshipp shall doo well to contynue your good opinion of me, but not to utter it, as I perceave you doo, whereby percase by some mislyking I may fynd some lack to doo as I wold doo. And so I end with my humble compliments. From Wyndsor Castle, 28th October, 1569.

“ Your Lordshipp’s at command, W. CECILL.”

Endorsed by his Lordship, Mr. S. K. 30th October, 1569.

\* In consequence of the Earl of Huntingdon’s pretensions to the Crown.

“ To our right trusty and right well-beloved cosin therle of Huntingdon, S.

“ Elizabeth R.

By the Quene.

“ Right trusty and right well-beloved cosin we grete you well. And let you wite our pleasure and commandment is, that, for certeyn good and weighty considerations us thereunto moving, you shall forthwith, upon the receipt herof, prepare yourself with all the force you can possibly make, to convey the Scottishe Quene from Tutbury where she now remayneth unto our towne of Coventry: and there to see hir safely kept and gardid until we shall signify our further pleasur unto you. And for the better doing herof we have written our lettres of the lyke effect of these to our cosins of Shrewsbury and Hereford to joyne with you, and accompany you in this service, with such forces as they can prepare for the purpose.

“ Gyven under our signet, at our castle of Windesore, the XXIIInd of November, 1569, in the twelveth yere of our reigne.”

Endorsed by the Earl of Huntingdon, “ The Queene’s lettres to goo to Coventre.”

“ To the Right Honourable my very good Lord the Earle of Huntingdon, Queen Majesties Lieutenant of Leicester and Rutlandshires.

“ I thanke your good Lordship most heartilie for the trust which I finde you do repose in me. Whensoever I shall not discharge it like an honest man, let me suffer the reproach worthy of such a fault. Though it be so that some favour be, as it seemeth of common curtesie, shewed to the Scottish Queen in sending and receiving letters in your presence and my Lord of Shrewsbury, yet I promise you I see not but the same opinion continueth here for her that was before, and as great regard had to all her doings whereby no



better affection is increased towards her for any thing I know; and yet the French ambassador hath marvellous earnestly solicited her enlargement, which hath not been so w . . . ged as he wished. And yet peradventure that might move this favour that you see. Those cyphered letters that you have I wish known to her Majestie, or at least the contents of them understood; for belike the matter in them is not common that is so covered. Surelie, my good Lord, it is true that you say, the time doth awate every honest faythfull Christian to be vigilant in these dangerous tempests. And though as it appears there be many ill folke and many hollow friends, yet I doubt not her Majestie hath a greater number of faithful hable to correct the lewdness of the other. And, I assure you, my Lord, if there be either fayth or honour in men, I have greater cause daylie to like, more and more, the good and sincere proceedings of my (my Lord) your brother, both in God's cause and the general cause of the state. Indeed, he pleaseth to conferr sometimes with me therein, and so farr as my simple capacitie will serve me, I neither do nor will omyt to advise and encourage him to persevere constant in the service of good—of our good mistress and this cuntrye; whereunto I finde him the lesse perswasion needeth. And because I know how necessary it is for the advancement of those most necessary causes that good intelligence and assured friendship should be betwene you two I was the rather bold heretofore to write to your Lordship somewhat in that matter, which I have thought good now again to renew, praying you to give me leave to employ myself thereon, like as I have required him, whereof you both shall take commoditie, and especially the common cause of this time, which is the only respect that moveth me. And touching myself, albeit I may for lack of understanding, be deceived in some things, yet it shall never be seen that willingly I will be carryed from my duty towards God and

my sovereign: trusting that your Lordship will continew that opinion until prooffe shall make you change it; and so my good Lord for this time I leave to trouble you any further. I pray God direct all your ways, and specially in the ordning your present chardge, from thee which I see no hope of your delivery yet a while, until this northern tempest be over, whereof we looke daylie to heare good news, and have this morning received some, of the rebels farther retyre northwards, which sheweth their weaknesse; and when I heare farther your Lordship shall be advertised. Vitelli, that came forward from the Duke of Aloa, took his leave on Sunday last, and so doth return *intectâ re*. We have cause to be jealous of the Duke's doing in Flanders, and therefore hir Majestie armeth further to the sea. God preserve you and guide you with his Holy Spirit, and so I humbly take my leave. From Windsor, the 20th of December, 1569. Your good Lordshipp's assured to command,

“W. A. MILDMAI.”

Lord Huntingdon was moreover one of the Peers summoned to assist at the investigation then held on the conduct of Mary, concerning the murder of Lord Darnley; and, notwithstanding her objections to him, as keeper, on account of his alliance to the Crown, she was subsequently intrusted for some time to his sole custody at Ashby Castle.\* Soon after he gave notice of a plot to carry her off. The dignity of Knight of the Garter was conferred upon his Lordship about this time, as well as the office of Privy Counsellor, and Lord Lieutenant of Leicester and Rutland, to which was added the Lord Presidency of the North. In 1573, he sat upon the trial of

\* This circumstance appears by the traditional account preserved in the family, and by a room now remaining in the ruins of Ashby Castle, which has always been, and is to this day, distinguished by the name of Mary Queen of Scots' Room.

Thomas Duke of Norfolk ; and was again constituted Lord Lieutenant of the counties of Leicester and Rutland, as also of the counties of York, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, and the Bishopric of Durham. The Manors, Lordships, and Parks of Loughborough and Burley were the same year granted to him ; and he secured to his youngest sister, Mary, an annuity of one hundred marks during her life. Several letters are preserved in the British Museum, addressed about this period to the Lord Treasurer Burghley, by the Earl of Huntingdon, in his capacity of Lord President of the North, vindicating himself from some injurious imputations attempted to be attached to his conduct in the discharge of that high office, and giving an account of the northern rebellion, the military force, and political feeling, of that part of the kingdom, as well as other matters connected with his public duty. For the benevolent purpose of bettering the condition of the chaplains and poor of Wigston's Hospital, in the town of Leicester, and for the good and diligent instruction of the inhabitants in the Christian religion, and other charitable objects, his Lordship, in 1576, by a rent-charge on part of his property in that neighbourhood, secured the annual sum of 48*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, out of which provision, by special direction, 20*l.* a year has ever since been applied to the maintenance of a lecture every Sunday afternoon, and Wednesday morning, in St. Martin's Church, to be preached by one of the chaplains of the Hospital ; 10*l.* a-year to the chief schoolmaster of the free-school of Leicester ; 6*l.* a-year for two exhibitions to poor scholars of that school, the one to Oxford, the other to Cambridge ; and 4*l.* a-year towards the support of two poor scholars in the same establishment. A licence, dated June 14th, 1577, was granted to his Lordship, Anne, Countess of Pembroke, and Henry Lord Compton, to alienate the manor of Finchley in Middlesex, to trustees for the use of the Countess of

Pembroke for life, with remainder to Thomas, second son of Lord Compton and his heirs. On the new year's day next following, the Earl and Countess of Huntingdon presented to the Queen at Hampton Court, two purses value 10*l.* and 8*l.* and received the usual return of gilt plate. In 1580, he received a letter from the Lords in Council, informing him, that in consequence of many gentlemen and others in Lancashire "being fallen away to the Popish religion," the Queen had thought fit to send down an ecclesiastical commission to the diocese of Chester, directed to the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Chester, the Earl of Derby, and himself, desiring them to proceed against such delinquents in due form, but with particular rigour against the gentry, inasmuch as they, by their advice and example, seduced the inferior classes to renounce the Protestant communion. This communication further instructs his Lordship, with the Earl of Derby, and the Bishop of Chester, to fix on a proper place for the first assembling of the Commission, and to have a suitable sermon preached at every meeting. Not long after he wrote to the Lord Treasurer concerning the jurisdiction within the Bishopric of Durham, the Council of which it was then sought to abridge; and thanking "him for the good answer given to his brother Francis in a suit to her Majesty." In the course of a correspondence which took place during the two following years between him and Mr. Secretary Walsingham, touching the wants of the army in the North, and the perturbed state of Scotland, he takes occasion to express his thanks, "that he is likely to have a larger allowance." Any addition to his revenue must indeed have been peculiarly desirable at this period, since it appears that, through some mismanagement, or extraordinary expenditure, he had found it necessary to make sale, on very easy terms, of a great portion of his valuable landed properties, to the number, as it is stated, of no less than

ninety-four manors, thus seriously curtailing his princely fortune. His Lordship's affairs, owing to whatever cause, appear to have been involved about this time in no little embarrassment, and he had incurred several heavy debts, which he found himself without the immediate means of discharging. Hence he was obliged to make over his manor of Lubbersthorpe and other lands to the Queen, in liquidation of a debt due to her Majesty of 10,635*l.* a prodigious sum in those days ; and he conveyed the Lordship of Ashby to Sir James Harrington to satisfy a similar demand. Camden, the historian, who was his contemporary, says, that " he was of a mild disposition, but, being a zealous puritan, much wasted his estate by a lavish support of these hot-headed preachers." Another writer attributes his Lordship's connection with that sect or faction, to motives of policy, not of religion. " The Earl of Leicester and his party in the Court, had," says the author last alluded to, " their ends apart, which were to bring the imperial Crown of this realm, by some means or other, into the family of the Dudleys. His father had before designed it by marrying his son Guilford with the Lady Jane Grey, descended from the youngest sister of Henry the Eighth, and his project now was to set it on the head of the Earl of Huntingdon, who had married his sister, and looked upon himself to be direct heir to George Duke of Clarence. And that they might not want a party of sufficient strength to advance their interest, they made themselves the head of the puritans, the Earl of Leicester in Court, and the Earl of Huntingdon in the country. For Earl Huntingdon, therefore, Leicester obtained of the Queen the command of the North, under the title of Lord President of the Council of York, to keep out the Scots, and for himself, the conduct of the English armies in the Low Countries, to make sure of all." To whatever extent these allegations may or may not be true, it does not appear that any intention

existed to carry such a project into operation till after the death of her Majesty, an event which neither of these noblemen survived to see.

Under the immediate inspection of Lord Huntingdon, in his Castle at Ashby, was compiled a complete history of his family, entitled "*Collectanea quædam ex chartis et evidentiis Henrici Comitis Huntindoniæ, tangentiæ familias de Hastynges, Hungerford, Molyns, Moules, Peverell, Botreaux ; e' quibus omnibus aliisque quam-plurimis idem comes genus suum deducere cognoscitur. Selecta in ædibus dicti comitis apud Ashby la Zouche in Com. Leicestriæ, Mense Junii 1583.*" A fair copy of this compilation is preserved in the British Museum,\* where the curious manuscript documents on which it is founded may also be seen. His Lordship, in 1584, settled for ever, on Emmanuel College in Cambridge, just then founded by Sir Walter Mildmay, Chancellor of the Exchequer, the rectories of North Cadbury and Aller, in Somersetshire, together with those of Loughborough and Thureaston, in Leicestershire, and the Vicarage of Piddleton in Dorset, for the purpose, as it is expressed in the deed, "of advancing the preaching of God's most holy word, and preferment of such men to complete livings in the ministry, as for those gifts of the same understanding and knowledge should be found fit and able." Piddleton, however, in consequence of some flaw in the deed, was afterwards lost to the College. He corresponded with the Lord Treasurer in 1588 concerning the providing of necessary military stores at Newcastle, and the raising of men in Yorkshire, with a view to the threatened Spanish invasion. On that ever memorable occasion, Thomas Skiffington of Belgrave, Esq. then High Sheriff of the County of Leicester, summoned together all persons between the ages of nineteen and fifty, to the number of 12,530 effective men. Two thousand prime men, selected from this body, and placed

\* See Harl. MSS. 4774, and the two other MSS. numbered 3881 and 4849.

under the command of the Earl of Huntingdon's brother, Walter Hastings of Kirby, who was Major-General, were dispatched to the camp formed at Tilbury, which they completely fortified. After the subsequent total defeat and dispersion of the boasted and *benedictioned* Invincible Armada, George Norgée, Mayor of Leicester, at the Town Hall, entertained, in the most sumptuous style, all the Nobility and Gentry of the County, among whom were the Earl of Huntingdon, his brother Walter of Kirby, and numerous other personages of distinction. The following year the Queen sent his Lordship to Plymouth, to prevent the Earl of Essex from accompanying the expedition against Portugal. On undertaking to pay to her Majesty, for the term of eighteen years, the annual sum of 600*l.* in full satisfaction for debts due to her by Lord Lumley, the Earl of Huntingdon had, about this period, a grant in fee of the land called Southwood, and the manors of Ashby, Alton, Packington, Knightthorp, and Braunston, with all their appurtenances and profits, arising from courts, fairs, and markets, with five mills, and also the hundred of Framland, and the Monastery of St. Mary in the meadows, together with a rent of 20*l.* a year out of the Manor of Kirby. His Lordship, in 1592, was constituted chief Commissioner in the County of Leicester, to inquire and examine what persons were come from beyond sea since Michaelmas 1588, or of any other persons then resident in that county or elsewhere, who from their manner of life or otherwise could be supposed to have come from beyond the sea in the quality of seminary priests, jesuits, or fugitives, and also to apprehend and examine them, and in case any one were found justly culpable, to commit him to prison." He afterwards frequently wrote to Sir John Puckering, the Lord Keeper, on this business, as well as on the subject of recusants, and kept up a constant correspondence with him and the Lord Treasurer, relative to weighty

matters of state, and redress of private grievances, till within a few weeks of his death, which occurred at York, December the 14th, 1595, in the sixty-first year of his age. His Lordship died without issue and intestate, and was interred at Ashby de la Zouch, on the 28th of April following; his funeral, by express command of her Majesty, being solemnized with all pomp and honour becoming his high rank and consequence. On this occasion, the expences amounted to nearly 1,400*l.* sterling, as appears by the following curious account of particulars preserved :

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Blacks at York .....	109	0	7
Blacks at Coventry .....	273	12	4
Blacks at London .....	109	0	8
Blacks at Leicester .....	19	11	6
Allowance to the Officers at Arms .....	162	5	8
For hire of blacks, waste, and carriage thereof, to and fro .....	20	0	0
For embalming the corpse .....	28	4	1
The charges of his household servants at York, and expences in conveying the body from York to Ashby .....	29	18	10
Household expences for the diet and riding charges	333	11	0
Liveries to sixty poor men .....	60	0	0
In alms to the poor of divers parishes .....	26	13	4
Laid out by the Bailiff of Ashby, as appeareth ..	71	0	9
More in my Lord's riding charges in the burial of his brother .....	10	0	0
To obtaining the administration .....	4	10	0
The Sheriff's charges, and other of the Jury, four times .....	13	6	8



For exhibiting and engrossing the inventories	£.	s.	d.
double .....	4	0	0
For passing the account and expences of his ser-			
vants in that time .....	5	0	0
Expences of my Lord's servants riding into the			
North and other places to get accounts .....	5	0	0
Charges about the vendition of my Lord's goods			
in the County of Bucks .....	8	0	0

Some difference of opinion seems to have arisen on the question whether his Lordship's interment should take place at York or Ashby, he having left no positive directions on that point. The two following letters, written at the time by George, brother and successor of the deceased, have reference to this subject.

" To Mr. Edward Stanhope.

" Sir, &c.

" Now, for my Lord's entombing at York, good Mr. Stanhope, be not a means to procure it. My reasons; my honorable father took orders for a large vault to be made in Ashby church for that purpose, and himself led the way: and my honorable brother in his life-time alway shewed the like desire. Besides, it hath pleased God to call my son away, upon the Wednesday after his uncle's departure; a strange precedent, and to me a discomfortable accident; so as if he, in his life-time, in alteration of his minde, hath not left other order, yf I may with her Majesty's favour (as I desire this) so will I perform it, &c.

" Yours in my love,

" GEORGE HUNTINGDON."

" Donnington Park, Dec, 23."

“ To Mr. Humfrey Purefey,

“ Good Mr. Purefey, &c. For my sweet boy, I find all your loves and care of his good to be such, as without special direction from my honourable good sister (by whom, as well in that as in any other private cause, I rest to be directed) I purpose he shall be yet at your disposition. For the entombing of my son at Yorke, as I have written to Mr. Stanhope and the rest, so I heartily pray you surcease that request. I doubt not but you will allow of some reasons I have to the contrary. First, my honourable father, by his life, caused a fayre and large place to be builded in Asheby Church; a thing, as I thinke, known to yourself, where his body lyeth, accompanied with my honourable mother's. I have heard, my Lord, (my deare Brother,) when he lived, say, that he hoped, wheresoever he should end his life, his friends would cause him to be brought thither, there to be layd with his ancestors; which, for my own part, if it may so stand with her Majestie's gracious favour, I wish may be performed; where (God willing) my poore son shall wayt on him to the grave, &c.

“ Yours, &c.

“ GEORGE HUNTINGDON.”

Mr. Stanhope and Mr. Purefey, the two gentlemen to whom the foregoing were directed, some time after addressed a letter to the Lord Keeper, thanking him “ for his care of so good a lady as the Countess of Huntingdon, the widow of so worthy a noble gentleman, who lived and died most careful of God's, hir Majestie's, and his country's services.” Among the MSS. of Mr. Carte, preserved in the Bodleian Library, it is noticed, that “ Henry, Earl of Huntingdon; George, his brother and successor; and Sir Francis Hastings, another brother; were all three persons of great fame and

renown, as many of that ancient and honourable family had been ;” and it is elsewhere said, that they left several valuable manuscripts concerning the reign of Queen Elizabeth. His Lordship’s character in a religious point of view, as a pious and zealous Christian, is pleasingly illustrated by the three subjoined letters, the two first of which were addressed to the Bishop of Chester, and the other to Lord Shrewsbury, in condolence on his father’s death.

“ *Salutem in Christo*, &c. to your good Lordshippe, whom I do hartilie thanke for the letters you sent me by this bearer, Mr. Woreley. I wishe Lancashire, and all other counties, had manie such gentlemen soe well affected. I am glade your Lordshippe liketh to live in Manchester, for as it is the best place in those parts, soe do you well to continue and strengthen them, that they may increase and go forward in the service of the Lord. And surelie, by the Grace of God, the well plantinge of the Gospell in Manchester, and the parishes near to yt, shall in time effect much good in other places; yf in Manchester there were an hour spent everie morninge from six to seven, or from seven to eight, in prayer and a lecture, as *brevis oratio*, then as yt is said *penetrare coelus*; so shorte lessons often taught yt ys like no doubt but the grace will pearse manie hartes. The prair and lecture might beginne and end with the clocke. The work is soe good, and for yt that place is soe fit, as I am bolde thus to put you in mind of yt. God direct you and keepe you to himself safe. And soe for this time I take leave of you. From London the viith of December, 1581, youre Lordshippe’s in the Lord.

“ H. HUNTINGDON.”

“ My good Lord,

“ The bearer can salute you. Litell tyme I have to write a few lynes to you at this time, yet may I nott omytt both hartilie to thank your Lordshippe for your last letters, and also for your great favour shewed to this honest, godlie preacher, and other his associates and fellowe laborers in the Lord's harvest, whiche surelie soundeth to your greate creditt amongeste all honeste men, and is no doubte in the sight of the Lord most acceptable. God prosper your Lordshippe in that good cause, and graunt that others of your country may tread the suer path with you. I assure you it did not a little rejoyce me to hear that of you, which the good Viker did tell me. I do all that I can to gett good preachers planted in the market townes of this country, in which somewhat is alreadie done; but much remayneth to be done. Wee hold opinion heare, that the Universities have not store of preachers to send forth. But I am not of that mynd altogether. Well, God increase the numbre; to whose mercyeful tuition I do comytt your Lordshipp; and so for this tyme hartelie take my leave. At Yorke, the 27th of June, 1584.

“ Your assured friend in . . . . .

“ H. HUNTINGDON.”

“ My good Lorde,

“ As I was sorrye when I dyd have the fyrste newes of your honourable fathyr his end, so, with others, I was gladde to knowe howe fytted a person God in mercye hathe apoynted to succede hym. Your Lordshippe hathe juste cause to understand yt to be the Lorde's doynge, and therefore I have no dowbte but you wyll ever remember to geave unto him that which ys dewe; then shall God and hys church be honoryd and comfortyd, the Prynce and comonwelthe welle servyd and proffityd by you, in suche sorte as beste

agreeth with a man of your place and callynge, to your owne greate honour in earthe, and your everlasting comforte in heaven, which is the marke we all shote at, and most myserable ys he that at laste myssyth yt. In thys rude playne sorte, I am bolde hartelye to salute your Lordshippe, this bearer by hys comynge to me offerynge me the occasion, and so restynge at your Lordshipp's devotion, I comytte you to the protection of the Almyghtye. At London, the 11th of January, 1590.

“ Your Lordshipp's assured cousyn,

“ H. HUNTINGDON.”

The Countess his wife, who survived his Lordship upwards of twenty-four years, had, during his life-time, a separate grant of lands in Herefordshire, and, after his decease, obtained an additional grant, in 1603, in the counties of Leicester, Somerset, and Dorset. Her Ladyship departed this life August the 4th, 1620, and, on the 14th, was buried at Chelsea, where, close to the splendid monument of her mother, the Duchess of Northumberland, under the canopy, stands an altar tomb, the top of which is inlaid with a small slab of white marble, inscribed, “ To the memory of Catherine, relict of Henry, Earl of Huntingdon.”

## CHAPTER VII.

OF GEORGE, FOURTH EARL OF HUNTINGDON, LORD FRANCIS HASTINGS,  
HIS ELDEST SON, AND HENRY HASTINGS, OF WOODLANDS.

**GEORGE HASTINGS**, second son of Francis, the second Earl of Huntingdon, and brother to Henry, the third Earl, married, in the month of July, 1557, Dorothy, second daughter, and one of the co-heirs of Sir John Port, of Etwall, in the county of Derby, Knight, and of Elizabeth, his wife, (daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Gifford, of Chellington, Knight, and heir to her mother Dorothy, daughter and heir to Sir John Montgomery, of Cobley, in Derbyshire,) and by her, who brought him Dale Abbey, in Derbyshire, was father of three sons and two daughters. After his marriage, he settled for some time at Gopshall, in Derbyshire; and, in 1562, was returned to serve in parliament for that county. He was knighted in 1566; and two years after resided at Loughborough. In 1571, he was High Sheriff for Leicestershire; in 1573, was appointed one of the Commissioners for arming and arraying all persons in that county between the ages of sixteen and sixty for the Queen's service, and was elected into parliament for the same in 1586. In 1590, he purchased from Thomas Butler and Walter Coppinger, of London, a tenement at Loughborough, called the Great House, with all such lands in the counties of Leicester and Nottingham, as had belonged to the Guild, called Jesus and St. George Guild, in Loughborough, or as had been applied to the

“ maintenance of any chantry, priest, chaplain, or clerk, or other superstitious use in the church of Loughborough.” In February, 1591, Sir George, Sir Edward Hastings, Sir Francis Beaumont, Serjeant at Law, with several other gentlemen, were appointed Commissioners, “ diligently to inquire of the secret repair into this country of a considerable number of seminary priests,” a subject which, about that period, occupied the utmost vigilance of the Government. After his accession to the Earldom, by the decease of his brother in December, 1595, (within a few days of which period, his own eldest son, Lord Francis, also died, leaving issue,) he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the counties of Leicester and Rutland; and not long after the Earl of Essex addressed to his Lordship, in that capacity, a letter, which is preserved in the British Museum.

In 1598, as Lord Lieutenant of the county, he directed a requisition to the Mayor of Leicester, as follows:

“ To my loving Mr. Mayor, of Leicester.

“ Mr. Mayor,

“ Forasmuch as I have received letters from the Lords of her Majestie’s most honourable Privy Council, for the present supplying and putting in readiness her Majesty’s forces, heretofore levied within this her Majesty’s county of Leicester; and, whereas, in former order and proportions, taken in my late honourable brother’s time, for five hundred trained soldiers in this county levied, the town of Leicester was then charged with the furnishing of forty men, with twelve calivers, four muskets, eleven bows and arrows, eight carslets and pikes, and five bills; now their Lordships’ pleasures are, that all the bows and arrows, and bills, generally, must be refused, and supplied with muskets, so that then your proportion is

twelve calivers, twenty musquets, and eight carslets and pikes, all which I require you, and, in her Majesty's name, charge and command you forthwith to have in good readiness; and, withal, to select and make choice of the forty men to be very sufficient and able men, and like to be resident, and no starters or shifting persons, and presently to see them armed accordingly, that I may have them ready at an hour's warning, to take the view of them myself, and so to deliver them over to such as I shall appoint for the arraying and ordering of them. And hereof I pray you not to fail. Given at my manor of Ashby de la Zouch, this 29th day of April, 1598.

“ Your loving friend,

“ GEORGE HUNTINGDON.”

His Lordship obtained a grant of certain lands in Leicestershire, in 1599; and on the following new year's day, himself, the Countess his wife, and the Countess Dowager, presented three purses to the Queen, receiving the customary portion of gilt plate in return. Shortly after this, he was directed by a letter from her Majesty, to levy fifty able men to be sent to serve in Ireland; and, in 1601, received a similar order to raise fifty more for the same destination, besides twenty-five for Rutland, and to collect 3*l.* 10*s.* a man to arm and clothe them. A letter is preserved, addressed about this period to the Earl of Shrewsbury, by George, afterwards Sir George Belgrave, excusing himself for not having made his public submission to the Earl of Huntingdon, because he durst not appear publicly at the assizes for fear of being arrested, and requesting therefore that the sentence of the Star Chamber for his contempt might be suspended.



On the decease of the Queen in March, 1602, he received an order from the Lords of the Council to proclaim King James, who immediately appointed him Lord Lieutenant of the Counties of Leicester and Rutland; and shortly after, when Queen Anne, and her son Prince Henry, were on their journey from York to London, the following letter was sent to the Earl of Shrewsbury:

“ Right Honourable,

“ Presuminge that your Lordship will beare with my boldness where my intent is honest; this day Sir William Skypwith and myselfe mett at my honorable Lord Huntingdon's att dinner. After that Sir William was gonne, his Lordship talked with me in pryvate, and seemed to be very desyrous to have the Quien to come to his howse; and spake yt to that end as I didd verry well parseyve that yt might come to your eares, and further willed me to use my witts in this matter, so as that your Lordship might also know yt yf you pleased to be a meane to effect yt, he would take it as a great kyndnes prosedinge from yourselfe. He would not be a mediator of this himself, (I parseyved by him,) because persons of his place would not wyllingly resseyve a denyall in so indyfferent a cawse: if your honour thynke yt will be donne to his Lordship's content, though yt be uppon this soddeyn he wyll be well provided according to the time this bearer shall spidily retowrn to bring answer. They wey from Wooleatton I dare assure your Lordship will be easie and fayr, and is just tenn myles. So with my heartie preyer to Almighty God to bless your Lordship with all honour as my hart desyreth, I most humbly take my leave.

“ Your honour's most bounden duryng lyff,

“ ROBERT BAINRIGG.

“ Calke, this 13th day of June, 1603.”

“ As I was wrytinge, my Lord wrytte me a very earneste letter, which, at my attendynge upon your Honour, I will shewe you. This accomplished will breed a continewall love betwixt your howses for ever. Your Lordship’s gest, Mr. Rome, of Leicester, is newly dead, but not of any contageous sicknesse.

“ To the Right Honourable my approved good Lord the Earl of Shrewsbury these be d<sup>d</sup>. ”

The result of this request was favourable to the wishes of the noble Earl, who had the honour, on the 22d June, of welcoming the Queen, Prince Henry, and suite, to his castle of Ashby, whence, after partaking of its elegant and sumptuous hospitalities, the royal visitors set out on the following day for Leicester, and, on the 24th, were entertained at Dingley. His Lordship, in 1604, was appointed Chief Forester of Leicestershire, and Steward and Receiver of the honour of Leicester. These were the last offices given to his merits and services, as he died on the 30th of December of that year, and was buried at Ashby. After the performance of the rites at the interment, a kind of funeral oration was pronounced by Garter, in which he said, “ Thus it hath pleased Almighty God to call forth of this transitory life to his Divine Mercy the most honourable George Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Hastings, Baron Hungerford, Botreaux, Molynes, and Moyles, Lieutenant for the King’s Majesty in the counties of Leicester and Rutland. Let us therefore pray that it may please Almighty God to bless with long life, health, honour, and happiness the most honourable Henry, now Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Hastings, Baron Hungerford, &c. &c. to the glory of God, the service of his Prince and Country, and the upholding of the ancient and honourable reputation of his most noble name and family.”

According to the inquisition afterwards taken, on the 30th of September, 1607, the details of which furnish a curious exemplification of the increased value of landed property, the Earl of Huntingdon “died possessed of one-ninth of the manor of Winton, held (with the office of the bailiwick of Carleton) of the King in capite, by the hundredth part of a knight’s fee; the hundred of Framland, &c.; Alton Grange; the manor of Ashby de la Zouch, worth 30*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* and the rectory and vicarage, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* held of the King as of the manor of Castle Donnington, in socage; the manors of Barrow and Segrave, worth 66*l.* 3*s.* 9½*d.* held of the King as part of the fee of Chester, by fealty only; the manor of Evington, worth 45*l.* 13*s.* 0½*d.* held of the King in capite, by the hundredth part of a knight’s fee; the manor of Loughborough, worth 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* held of the King in capite, and by an annual rent of 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; the manors of Packington, &c. &c. worth 5*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* held by the twentieth part of a knight’s fee, and the rectory of that Church, then held of the King in free socage as parcel of the manor of Donnington; Donnington Park, containing 300 acres of pasture, worth 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* held of the King, but by what tenure unknown;\* the manor of Gopshall, worth 5*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* tenure unknown; and the manors of Belton, (with the vicarage,) Thringston, Osgathorpe, &c. held in fee farm, as of the manor of East Greenwich in free socage.”

By his wife Lady Dorothy aforesaid, his Lordship had issue three sons: 1. Francis Lord Hastings, heir apparent, but who died in his father’s life-time, leaving issue; 2. Henry, who was of Woodlands; and, 3. Edward, who died at Vienna unmarried; and also two daughters, Catharine, married, first to Sir Edward Unton,

\* His Lordship, it appears by other accounts, purchased Donnington Park, and the demesnes belonging to it, from the unfortunate Earl of Essex, who held them by grant from Queen Elizabeth.

of Wadley, in Berks, Knt. and secondly to Sir Walter Chetwynd, of Ingestry, Knt. and Dorothy, wedded first to Sir James Stuart, K. B. eldest son and heir apparent to Walter Lord Blantyre in Scotland, and godson to James the First, and after his death, (which took place in 1609, in the memorable duel fought at Islington, between him and Lord Wharton's son and heir, Sir George, in which both the combatants unfortunately lost their lives,) to Robert Dillon, Earl of Roscommon, in Ireland.

Before we proceed to Francis Lord Hastings, the eldest son, whose son Henry continued the succession, it becomes necessary in this place to interpose the history of Henry, of Woodlands, the second son, and his issue, to their extinction, the more especially as a presumed surviving branch of them was for some time attempted to be set up as a bar to the present Earl's claim.

Henry, commonly, but erroneously styled Sir Henry, Hastings of Woodlands, second son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon, was distinguished in his day by the peculiarities of his character, and his manners and habits in domestic life. His time was almost exclusively devoted to hunting, and other sports of the field, but he does not appear to have been, in other respects, a very rigid disciple of Diana, and if he "led the rural life in all its joy," it must be confessed, following Lord Shaftesbury's description, it was not precisely "such as Arcadian song transmits from ancient uncorrupted times." He had the manor of Piddleton, in Dorsetshire, from his father, who, however, reserved the advowson of the living to himself, and afterwards married Dorothy, daughter, and one of the co-heirs, of Sir Francis Willoughby, of Woollaton, in the county of Nottingham, Knt. by whom he had issue, five sons and one daughter. Jacob and Dugdale make mention of a second wife of this





Dr. Bretherton f 3<sup>d</sup> June 1782.

## MR. HASTINGS.

*From the Original Picture in the Collection of the Earl of Shaftesbury to whom this Plate is humbly inscribed by his Lordship's obedient humble Servant -*

*J. Bretherton*



ture, an original in our age, or rather the copy of our ancient nobility, in hunting, not in warlike times. He was low, very strong, and very active; of a reddish flaxen hair; his cloathes always green cloth, and never worth, when new, more than 5*l*. His house was perfectly of the old fashion, in the midst of a large park, well stocked with deer; and near the house rabbits for his kitchen; many fishponds; great store of wood and timber; a bowling green in it, long but narrow, full of high ridges, it being never levelled since it was ploughed; they used round sand bowles, and it had a banquetting house like a stand, a large one built in a tree. He kept all manner of sport hounds that ran buck, fox, hare, otter, and badger, and hawkes long and short winged. He had a walk in the New Forest, and in the manor of Christ Church; this last supplied him with red deer, sea and river fish; and indeed all his neighbours' grounds and royalties were free to him, who bestowed all his time on these sports, but what he borrowed to caress his neighbours' wives and daughters, there being not a woman in all his walks, of the degree of a yeoman's wife or under, or under the age of 40, but it was her own fault if he was not intimately acquainted with her. This made him very popular; always speaking kindly to the husband, brother, or father, who was to boot very welcome to his house. Whenever he came there he found beef, pudding, and small beer in great plenty: the house not so neatly kept as to shame him or his dirty shoes; the great hall strewed with marrow bones; full of hawkes, perches, hounds, spaniels and terriers; the upper side of the hall being decked with fox skins, of this and the last year's killing; here and there a pole-cat intermixed; game-keepers' and hunters' poles in great abundance. The parlour was a large room as properly furnished. On a great hearth, paved with brick, lay some terriers, and the choicest hounds and spaniels. Seldom



but two of the great chairs had litters of cats in them, which were not to be disturbed; he having always three or four attending him at dinner, and a little white stick, of 14 inches long, lying beside his trencher, that he might defend such meat as he had no mind to part withal. The windows, which were very large, served for places to lay his arrows, cross-bows, and stone bows, and such like accoutrements; the corners of the rooms full of the best hunting and hawking poles; his oyster table at the lower end, which was of constant use, twice a-day, all the year round, for he never failed to eat oysters, both at dinner and supper time, all seasons; the neighbouring town of Poole supplied him with them. The upper part of the room had two small tables, and a desk; on the one side of which was a Church Bible, and on the other side the Book of Martyrs: on the tables were hawks' hoods, bells, and such like; two or three old hats with their crowns thrust in, so as to hold ten or a dozen eggs, which were of the pheasant kind of poultry; these he took much care of and fed himself. Tables, dice, cards, and boxes, were not wanting. In the hole of the desk were store of tobacco pipes that had been used. On one side of this end of the room was the door of a closet, wherein stood the strong beer and the wine, which never came from thence but in single glasses, that being the rule of the house exactly observed, for he never exceeded in drink, or permitted it. On the other side was the door of an old chapel, not used for devotion; the pulpit, as the safest place, was never wanting of a cold chine of beef, venison pasty, gammon of pasty, or a great apple-pye, with thick crust extremely baked. His table cost him not much, though it was good to eat at. His sports supplied all but beef and mutton, except Fridays, when he had the best of salt fish, as well as other fish he could get; and this was the day his neighbours of best quality visited him. He never

wanted a London pudding, and always sung it in with "my part lies therein a." He drank a glass of wine or two at meals ; very often put syrop of gilly-flowers in his sack, and had always a tun glass, without feet, stood by him, holding a pint of small beer, which he often stirred with rosemary. He was well-natured, but soon angry, calling his servants bastards, and cuckoldry knaves, in one of which he often spoke truth, to his own knowledge, and sometimes in both, though of the same man. He lived to be an hundred, and never lost his eye sight, but always wrote and read without spectacles, and got on horseback without help. Until past fourscore, he rode to the death of a stag as well as any."

Such is the minutely touched and very amusing picture of this extraordinary personage, left us by one of the most eminent geniuses of that age—a picture, which, whatever may be its individual resemblance, and we are not disposed to question its justness in that respect, possesses, moreover, all the merit of a curious historical painting, characteristic of early manners. Mr. Hastings died October the 5th, 1650, in his ninety-ninth year, and was buried with his wife, whom he survived twelve years, at Horton Church, in the Hastings' aisle in which is his monument with the following inscription;—

"The Honourable Henry Hastings of Woodlands, second son to George Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, departed this life the 5th of October, 1650, ætatis ninety-nine, and Dorothy his wife, one of the co-heirs of Sir Francis Willoughby, Knt. of Woollaton, in the county of Nottingham, who departed this life the 5th of December, 1638, ætatis 84: and Sir George Hastings, Knt. their son and heir, who died 25th of October, 1651, ætatis sixty-three."

By Dorothy his wife he had issue five sons ; 1. George, 2. Ralph, 3. Henry, 4. William, and 5. Francis ; and also one daughter, Doro-

thy, married first to Sir John Ryves, Knt., and secondly, in 1625, to Thomas Tregonwell, Esq.

Sir George, the eldest son and heir, married Alice, the daughter of Sir Thomas Greke, by whom he had three sons, George, Edward, and John; and three daughters, Frances, Dorothy, and Mabel.—From this John, who, as well as his two elder brother,s, died without issue, as is proved by the mass of evidence contained in the Attorney-General's Report, which will be more fully referred to hereafter, a descent was endeavoured to be derived, and a claim to the dormant Earldom thereupon established, in behalf of Mr. George Hastings of Killaloo, County of Clare, Ireland, in frustration of the present Earl's undoubted right to the title. This project, however, founded either in ignorance or concerted fraud, and wholly unsupported by evidence, was speedily abandoned, the caveat and petition of the pseudo-claimant withdrawn, and a notice to that effect served on the Attorney-General, Sir Samuel Shepherd.—Of the daughters, Mabel, the youngest, died unmarried; Dorothy, the second, married, first, — Doddington, Esq. by whom she had one son, and secondly, Henry Eyres, Esq. Barrister at Law; and Frances, the eldest, married John Roy, of London, Merchant, upon whom, on the death of his brother-in-law, John, youngest and last surviving son of Sir George, without issue, the family estate of Woodlands devolved. This John Roy had one son, John, who died without issue, and one daughter, Frances, who married Samuel Rolle, of Heanton in Devonshire. About the year 1710, Mr. Rolle sold the estate of Woodlands to — Seymour, Esq. of the Hanaper Office, after whose decease, his nephew and heir, Sir Henry Munro, again sold it, in 1785, to the Earl of Shaftesbury, and it is at present in possession of that noble family.

Ralph, the second son of Henry of Woodlands, was of Hinton, in Hampshire, and died in the year 1648, leaving issue by his wife Joan, daughter and heir of Edmund Scutt, of Warminster, four sons, Henry, George, Ralph, and Ferdinando. Of these sons, the two eldest died without issue—Ralph, the third son, who died in June, 1695, was married first to Sarah, daughter of Thomas Moore, by whom he had one daughter, and no other issue; and secondly to Sarah, daughter of Roger Tulse, of Ashley, by whom he had two sons, George and Ralph, who both died issueless. Ferdinando, the fourth son, married Deborah, daughter of Richard Flavel, of Wellersley, in Gloucestershire, Esq. who bore him three daughters, Maria, Elizabeth, and Deborah; and two sons, Ferdinand of Long-alley, Shoreditch, London, married to Elizabeth Shepherd, by whom he had one daughter espoused to William Weatherhead, and Theophilus, who died at the age of seventy-eight, a bachelor.

Henry, third son of Henry of Woodlands, lived at Newington Butts, and taking to wife Susanna, daughter of Robert Offey, had one only child, Anne, who was wedded to John Alway. Henry had a second wife named Catharine, by whom he had no issue.

William, the fourth son, a clergyman, married Anne, daughter of Gabriel Cracknell, of Oxford, and had issue five sons, Henry, William, Francis, Edward, and Benjamin; and three daughters, Dorothea, Catharine, and Anna. Henry, the eldest, settled in Dublin in the year 1682, where he married, and had issue two daughters, Mary and Anne. William married Rebecca Pitfield, by whom he had one son, Gabriel, who was Chaplain in Colonel Hastings' regiment, and died unmarried. Francis espoused Anne Arnold, and had one daughter, and one son, Francis, who died a bachelor. Edward, who was of Piddleton, died without issue. And Benjamin,

the fifth son, who was of Bridport, in Dorsetshire, married Anne Brown, and had by her one son, Henry, who died without issue.

Francis, the fifth and youngest son of Henry of Woodlands, married the daughter of John Langton, of the county of Dorset, and died without issue.

Having thus arrived at the complete extinction of the male issue of the younger sons of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon, we now return to Francis, Lord Hastings, his eldest son, heir apparent to the title, and whose son, Henry, continued the succession. He resided at the Old Palace, otherwise called the Lord Place, near Ashby Castle; and, in 1586, sold to the Corporation of Leicester one half part of the Grange near that town, which he held by lease from the Queen. He married Sarah, daughter to Sir James Harrington, and sister to John Lord Harrington, of Exton, and by her had issue four sons and two daughters. The following curious letter, written by this lady in 1582 to the Mayor of Leicester, is preserved :—

“ Good Mr. Henricke,

“ You sent me worde that you had plummes for me, which, yf you will send me, I shall think myselfe beholdinge unto you. Moreover, touching the money for youre brother, I will not faile, by the grace of God, but to send Vincent unto you some tyme this next weeke for 24*l.*, or thereabouts. In the meane tyme, I praye you be the meane to prove the readines of so much money, and he shall not fayle to come unto you. Thus with my very hearty commendations, I leave you to the Lorde. Ashbye, this 21st of Auguste, 1582.

“ Your verye lovinge friend,

“ SARA HASTINGS.”

“ To my verye lovinge friend, Mr. Robert Henricke, Maior of Leicester, be theis d'd.”

Her Ladyship on another occasion writes, “ I praye you send me six dozen of the beste trenchers you have, and half a dozen of your beste Vennis glasses, with covers for drinking-glasses ; likewise, yf you have any more of the same bole-glasses, which I had of, I pray you send them, and let them be safely packed up for breaking.”

By his marriage with Lady Sarah, Lord Francis had issue four sons: 1. Henry, fifth Earl, 2. George, 3. Edward, and 4. Francis, who died an infant ; and two daughters, Catharine, wedded to Philip Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield, and Theodosia, to Sir Francis Bodenham of Ryhall, in Rutlandshire, Knt. the latter without issue.

George, the second son, who was of Gray's Inn, was knighted at Whitehall, November 5, 1615, and, in 1626, obtained a grant of lands in the counties of Leicester, Somerset, and Derby. He died in July, 1641, of the plague, which desolated London at that period, and was buried in the church of Bartholomew the Great, in the south aisle of which, on a tablet, or painting on canvass, are seventy quarterings blazoned, and a Latin inscription, importing that he married Seymour, daughter of Sir Gilbert Prynne, of Allington, Knt., by whom he had three daughters, Catharine, Martha, married to Owen Owens, Esq. ; and Margaret, who died at the age of nineteen years ; besides four sons, George, Charles, Ferdinando, and Francis, the first and last of whom died during infancy, and the other two without issue.

Edward, the third son, was a Captain in the Navy, and, accompanying Sir Walter Raleigh to Guiana in 1617, died on that disastrous expedition, unmarried.

## CHAPTER VIII.

OF HENRY, FIFTH EARL OF HUNTINGDON, AND HENRY LORD LOUGH-  
BOROUGH, HIS YOUNGER SON.

**HENRY**, fifth Earl of Huntingdon, eldest son of Francis Lord Hastings, was born at Eaton, in the county of Rutland, where his baptism is entered in the parish registry in the following curious manner :—" 1586, Mr. Henry Hastings, son and heir of Mr. Francis Hastings, was born on St. Mark's even, April 24, between the hours of ten and eleven of the clock at night, Sign. Sagit. Secund. die plenilunii Marte in Taurum intrato die precedente, and was christened May 17." From this entry may be inferred the prevalence at that period of the exploded doctrines of astrology. On the decease of his grandfather, George, the fourth Earl, December 30th, 1604, Henry succeeded to the family estates and honours, at the age of eighteen; having, the preceding year, (June 1603,) married Elizabeth, youngest of the three daughters and co-heirs of Ferdinando Stanley, Earl of Derby; "a worthy lady," says Burton, "descended of royal blood, and adorned with all the beauteous ornaments of nature and honourable parts." Some time after, in honour of the first visit of his mother-in-law, the Countess Dowager of Derby, to Ashby Castle, and according to the custom of the Court and Nobility in those days, a splendid Mask was represented, written by Marston for the occasion, and entitled "The Lorde and Ladye of Hunting-





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don's Entertainment of their right noble mother, Alice Countess Dowager of Derby.\*

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\* An outline of this unpublished Mask, as a specimen of that species of dramatic composition, the performance of which was then fashionable at Court, and at the private houses of the nobility, and to which custom probably we are indebted for so exquisite a production as the "Comus" of Milton, cannot fail to be acceptable to the reader of taste. The MS. copy preserved, belonged to the very curious collection of the late Duke of Bridgewater. It begins with the following laconic dedication, which may stand as a proper counterpart to the prologue of the players in Hamlet.

" To the Right Noble Ladye Alice Countess Dowager of Darby,  
 " Madam,  
 " If my slight Muse may sute your noble merit,  
 My hopes are crown'd, and I shall cheere my spirit;  
 But if my weake quill droopes or seems unfitt,  
 'Tis not for want of worth, but mine of wit.  
 " The servant of your honor'd virtues, John Marston."

When her Ladishipp approached the Parke corner, a full noise of cornetts winded, and when she entered into the Parke, the treble cornetts reported one to another, as givenge warninge of her honors neerer approach, when presently her eye was saluted with an antique gate, &c.

When the Countesse came neare the gate, an olde inchauntres, attired in crimson velvet, with pale face, black haire, and dislykinge countenance, affronted her Ladishipp, and thus rudely saluted her :

" Woman, Lady, Princes, Nymph, or Goddes  
 (More, sure you are not, and you seeme no lesse)  
 Stay, and attempt not passadg through this porte.  
 Heere the pale Lord of Sadnes keeps his courte,  
 Rough visag'd Saturne, on whose bloudles cheeks  
 Dull Meloncholy sitts, who straightly seekes  
 To sease on all that enter through this gate, &c.  
 Myself, Merinna, who still waight uppon  
 Pale Melancholy and Desolation," &c.

[The whole of this speech is among the manuscripts in the British Museum, but no more of the Mask. I proceed, therefore, with the description in the Duke of Bridgewater's manuscript.]

This speach thus ended, presently Saturne yssued from forth the porte, and anxiously behoulding the Countesse, spake thus :

In 1604, his Lordship obtained a royal grant of the office of Chief Forester of Leicester Forest, of which we shall quote his own account.

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“ Peace! stay it is, it is, it is, even shee,  
 Hayle happy honors of nobilitye.  
 Did never Saturn see or nere see such,  
 What shoulde I style you, &c.  
 Sweete glories of your sex, know that your eyes  
 Make milde the roughest planet of the skies.  
 Even wee, the lorde that sitts on ebon throanes,  
 Circled with sighes and discontented groanes,  
 Are forc’d at your faire presence to relent,  
 At your approach all Saturn’s force is spent.  
 Hence, solitary Beldam, sinke to nighte,  
 I give up all to joye, and to delight,  
 And now passe on, all-happye-making dame,” &c.

Then passed the whole troupe to the house, untill the Countesse hadd mounted the staires to the great chamber; on the top of which, Merinna, having chaunged her habitt all to white, mett her, and whilst a consort softly played, spake thus:

“ Madam,  
 “ See what a chaunge the spiritt of your eyes  
 Hath wrought in us,” &c.

After which the Countesse passed on to hir chamber. Then follows the Masque, presented by four knights and four gentlemen, &c. The forme was thus: At the approach of the Countesse into the greate chamber, the hoboyes played untill the roome was marshaled, which once ordered, a travers slyded away; presently a cloud was seen to move up and downe almost to the topp of the greate chamber, upon which Cynthia was discovered riding; her habitt was blewe satten, fairely embroidered with starres and cloudes, who looking down and earnestly survaying the ladies, spake thus:

“ Are not we Cynthia, and shall earth display  
 Brighter than us, and force untimely daye  
 Which daring flames beames such illustrious light,  
 Inforcing darkness from the claime of night.  
 Upp, Aryadne, thie cleare beauty rouse,  
 Thou northerne crowne,” &c.

“ King James of blessed memory, February 18, in the second year of his Majesty’s reign, granted unto Henry, now Earl of Hun-

In the midst of this speech, Ariadne rose from the bottom of the roome, mounted upon a cloud, which waved up untill it came near Cynthia; where resting, Ariadne spake thus :

“ Can thou, chaste queene, searching Apollo’s sister,  
Not know those stars that in yon valley glister,  
Is vertue strange to heaven,” &c.

After many more compliments to the ladies, Cynthia replies—

“ Let’s visite them, and slyde from our abode,  
Who loves not virtue, leaves to be a god.  
Sound spheares, spreade your harmonious breath,  
When mortalls shine in worth, gods grace the earth.”

The cloudes descend, whilst softe musique soundeth. Cynthia and Ariadne dismount from the clouds, and pacing up to the ladies, Cynthia perceiving Ariadne wanting her crowne of starrs, speaks thus :—

“ But where is Ariadne’s wreath of starrs,  
Her eight pure fiers that studd with goulden barrs  
Her shyning browes? Hath sweet-tongued Mercury  
Aduanc’d his sonnes to station of the skye,  
And throan’d them in thy wreath, &c.

Ariadne—“ Queene of chaste dew, they will not be confyn’d,  
Or fyx themselves where Mercury assynde,  
But every night, upon a forrest syde,  
On which an eagle percheth, they abyde,  
And honor her, &c.

Cynthia—“ Tell them thei err, and say that was the queene  
Of night’s pale lampes have now the substance seene,  
Whose shadowe they adore. Goe, bring those eight  
At mighty Cynthia’s summons,” &c.

Presently Ariadne sings this shorte call—

“ Musique and gentle night,  
Beauty, youthes’ chesse delights,

tingdon, by his patent under the Dutchy seal, the office of Chief Forester of Leicester Forest, fee per diem *2d.* yearly, the office of

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Pleasures all full invite  
 Your due attendance to this glorious roome,  
 Then yf you have or witt or vertue come,  
 Ah, come! Ah, come!"

Suddenly, upon this songe, the cornets were winded, and the travers that was drawn before the masquers sanke downe. The whole shewe presently appeereth, which presented itself in this figure: the whole body of it seemed to be the syde of a steepely assending woodd, on the top of which, in a fayre oak, sat a goulden eagle, under whose wings satt in eight severall thrones the eight masquers, with wisards like starres, then helmes like Mercurye's, with the addition of fayre plumes of carnation and white, then antique doublets and other furniture suitable to these colours, the place full of shields, lights, and pages, all in blew satten robes, imbrodered with starres. The masquers, thus discovered, satt still, untill Ariadne pronounced their invocation, at which thei descended:

" Mercurian issue, sonne of sonne of Jove,  
 By the Cyllenian rodd, and by the love  
 Deuotely chaste you vow Pasithea,  
 Descende, &c.

And O, yf ever you were worthe the grace  
 Of viewing majestie in mortalls face;  
 Yf ere to perfect worth you vow'd hart's duty,  
 Shew spiritt worth your virtues and their beauty."

The violins upon this played a new measure, in which the masquers danced, and ceasing, Cynthia spake:

" Stay a little, and now breath yee,  
 Whilst their ladies grace bequeath yee,  
 Then mixe faire handes, &c.  
 Cynthia charmes hence what may displease yee.

From ladies that are rudely coy,  
 Barring their loves from modest joy,  
 From ignorant silence, and proud lookes,  
 From those that aunswer out of bookes,  
 I blesse the fortune of each starry knight.

keeping the ward called the Thawyt, fee 30s. 4d. per annum ; the office of keeping healthy ward in the same forest 1½d. per diem,

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From gallants who still court with oathes,  
 From those whose only grace is cloathes,  
 From bombast stockings, vile legg-makers,  
 From beardes and great tobacca takers,  
 I blesse the fortune of each starry dame.

Singe that my charme may be more stronge,  
 The goddes are bounde by verse and songe."

## THE SONGE.

" Audacious nighte makes bold the lippe,  
 Now all court chaster pleasure,  
 Whilst to Apollo's harpe you trippe,  
 And tread the gracing measure.  
 Now meete, now breake, then fayne a warlike salley,  
 So Cynthia sports, and so the godes may dalley, &c."

During this song, the masquers presented their sheelds, and took forth their ladyes to daunce, &c.

After they had daunced many measures, galliards, corantos, and lavaltoes, the night being much spent, whilst the masquers prepared themselves for their departing measure, Cynthia spake thus :

" Now pleasing, rest ; for see the nighte,  
 (Wherein pale Cynthia claimes her right,)  
 Is almost spent, the morning growes,  
 The rose and violet she strowes,  
 Uppon the high celestial floore,  
 'Gainst Phœbus rise from's parramoore.  
 The Faeries that my shades pursue,  
 And bath their feete in my cold dew,  
 Now leave their ringlets and be quiett,  
 Lest my brother's eye shoulde spy it.  
 Then now let every gracious starr,  
 Avoide at sound of Phœbus carr ;  
 Into your proper place retyre,  
 With bosoms full of beauties fier ;

agistment for twelve kine, one bull, two horses, and sixteen loads of the firewood yearly in the same ward; the office of Keeper of Burned Lodge, (within the same forest,) with agistment for twelve kine, one bull, two horses, and sixteen loads of wood yearly : to have and to hold the said offices and fees during the life of the said Earl, in as large and ample a manner as Francis Earl of Huntingdon, Henry Earl of Huntingdon, and George Earl of Huntingdon, or any other, heretofore held the same.

	£	s.	d.
Fees yearly in money . . . . .	9	2	5
Cattle to be kept yearly, 34 . . . . .	51	0	0
The wood yearly, being 32 loads . .	16	0	0
	———— £76 2 5		

Hence must slide the queene of floodes,  
 For day begins to gilde the woodes :  
 Then whilst we singe, though you departe,  
 I'le sweare that heere you leave your harte."

After this, a shepherd sings, "a passionate ditty att my lady's departure;" he then presents the Countess with a scarf, and adds :

" Farewell, farewell,  
 Joy, love, peace, health,  
 In you long dwell,  
 With our farewell, farewell."

So the Countess passed on untill she came through the little park, where Niobe presented hir with a cabinet, and so departed.

There is a loose sheet in the copy of the Mask, on which are written fourteen stanzas, of six and four verses each stanza, being appropriated to a different lady, and exhibiting a complimentary address to Lady Derby. The first stanza is a stanza of thanks from the Countess herself. There is no direction in what part of the Mask these verses were to be spoken.

The speakers are in the following order: Lady Derby; Lady Huntingdon; Lady Hunsdon; Lady Berckly; Lady Stanhope; Lady Compton; Lady Fielding; Mrs. Gresby; Mrs. Parker; Mrs. K. Fischer; Mr. Saycheverell; Mrs. M. Fischer; Mrs. Davers; Mrs. Egerton.

Besides the killing of eighty bucks and forty does yearly, and the fishing of his Majesty's ponds, the pleasure and command of taking pheasants and partridges, the oversight and command of the wood, where no lord could sell any without licence. The keepers had over and above these former profits, granted to me, each of them enclosure about their houses for forty ewes and lambs a-piece, with the fees of their several places."

On new year's day, the following year, the Earl of Huntingdon presented to King James 20*l.* in gold, for which he received the usual return of gilt plate. Of the ceremonial observed on occasion of this obsolete custom, the mention of which so often occurs in these annals, his Lordship gives us the annexed curious description.

*"The manner of presentynge a new yeare's guifte to his Majestie from the Earl of Huntingdon.*

"You must buy a new purse of about Vs. price, and put there-into XX. pieces of new gold of XX*s.* a piece, and go to the presence chamber, where the court is upon new yeare day, in the morninge, about 8 o'clock, and deliver the purse and the gold in to my Lord Chamberlin; then you must go downe to the jewell-house for a ticket to receive XVIII*s.* VI*d.* as a guifte to your paines, and give VI*d.* there to the box for your ticket; then go to Sir William Veall's office and shew your ticket, and receive your XVIII*s.* VI*d.* Then go to the jewel-house againe, and make choice of a piece of plate of XXX. ounces weight, and marke it; and then in the after-noone you may go and fetch it away, and then give the gentleman that delivers it to you XL*s.* in gold, and give to the box there XI*s.* and to the porter VI*d.*"

His Lordship, in a letter addressed by him, about this time, to



the Earl of Shrewsbury, demands the court rolls of the manor of Melbourne, which had been purchased by his grandfather not long before his death ; and laments that the scantiness of his fortune did not enable him immediately to complete the payment of that estate, then held in trust for him by “ divers of his good friends.” In a subsequent letter to the same nobleman he apologises for not writing to him, “ as my Lady of Derby was coming into Warwickshire,” whither he was going, but adds, “ I have sent your Lordship a buck, though lean, yet the best I have. I hope your Lordship will do me the favour as to hunt in the forest, where I would have waited upon you if this had not prevented me.” In 1606, a charge occurs of 10*l.* 10*s.* for two barrels of gunpowder for the use of the town of Leicester, by command of the Earl of Huntingdon, in order to compel the inhabitants to desist from assembling to lay open inclosed ground ; and, a gibbet erected, *in terrorem*, having been demolished by a turbulent mob, Mr. Chamberlain, then Mayor, and Mr. Robert Eyrick, were confined to their houses by order of the Earl. In token of their repentance and submission, and for the purpose of appeasing his Lordship’s indignation, the Mayor and his brethren afterwards sent Mr. Hunter to Ashby with the present of a beautiful gelding to the younger Countess. The horse, being rejected, was kept at Ashby for twelve weeks, at the expense of the corporation, under a hope that time might beget a more favourable disposition, and bring about the acceptance of their peace offering.

In the month of May, 1608, his Lordship was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county of Leicester ; and, on the 28th of August, 1612, he carried the sword of state before King James into Leicester. His Majesty, in his progress through that part of his dominions afterwards, in 1614, was entertained, and lay at his Lordship’s house in Leicester, where he was received with all due

formalities by the Mayor and Corporation. On this occasion, Mr. John Wincoll addressed the King in an appropriate Latin speech, which his Majesty heard sitting in his coach at the court gates, with gracious attention, and, when finished, was pleased highly to commend, giving his hand to Mr. Wincoll to kiss, after which the Mayor carried the mace before him up into the presence chamber.

The following year, Earl Huntingdon, in recompence to Lady Zouch, his mother, for the loss of the estate of Fvington, part of her jointure, the settlement of which by him turned out to be void in law, granted annuities to his two brothers, to George 200*l.* and to Edward 100*l.*; and, at the special request of her Ladyship, and through fraternal affection, a further sum of 200*l.* a year to George, out of the lands of Packington, in order the better to enable him to prosecute his study of the law, which he had chosen as a profession. In July, 1615, he was again appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county of Leicester, as well as that of Rutland, Custos Rotulorum for Leicestershire, Steward of the duchy of Lancaster, and Master of the Royal Hart Hounds; in which last capacity was addressed to his Lordship an elegant Latin compliment to the English nation on its excellent race of hounds.\* In 1616 he was one

\* The letter addressed to his Lordship on this occasion is worth copying for its curiosity.

“ *Illustri et prænobili Domino Henrico Hastings, Comiti Huntingdoniæ, venationis cervinæ apud serenissimum Regem Præfecto, Joannes Sigismundus, Dei gratiâ Marchio Brandenburgensis, Borussia, Sedunorum, Pomeraniæ, Caersuborum, Vandalorum, Croenæque et Camosiæ, in Selisa Dux, Burgravius Nurembergensis, Rugiæque Princeps, salutem benevolentissimam et officiorum nostrorum promptitudinem.*

“ *Nos, illustrissime ac generosissime Domine Comes, semper animum in illud, quomodo ea, quæ in venatione usui sunt, eoque spectantia, nobis tum in nostris, tum etiam viciorum et aliorum terris comparemus, intentum habemus; ad vero cum jam temporis canes nobis venatici desunt, et ex relatu multorum, (qui ob idem generositatem vestram summis laudibus efferunt,) cognovimus generositatem vestram non solum instrumentis venatoriis*

of the peers who sat on the trial of the Earl and Countess of Somerset, for the poisoning of Sir Thomas Overbury. He obtained soon after from King James a grant of lands in Leicestershire; and purchased certain lands at Packington, which had been settled on his brother Captain Edward, who was then preparing to embark with Sir Walter Raleigh on his visionary and unfortunate expedition against the mines of Guiana, and who, in order to equip himself for the enterprise, made over his annuity before-mentioned to his brother George, in consideration of the sum of 600*l*. During this same year, he obtained a grant of free warren of his lands in Leicestershire, and, by letters patent, licence to establish two fairs annually within the manor of Ashby de la Zouch, and also a Court

*verum etiam omnibus eo pertinentibus, præsertim ejusmodi canibus satis abunde instructum esse (quod et laudabile et gloriosum est) rogamus, si fieri potest, ne nobis aliquot canes ad venationem bene educatos, V. G. qui quales optamus et volumus ex nostrâ a pedibus cognoscet, deneget. Nos vicissim si simile vel majus quid generositas vestra desideraret atque exoptaret nequaquam recusabimus, sed cum voluntate benevolâ promptaque," &c.*

## TRANSLATION.

"To the illustrious and Right Honourable Lord Henry Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, Keeper of the stag hounds to his Most Serene Majesty; John Sigismund, by the Grace of God, Marquis of Brandenburg, Duke of Prussia, &c. Burgrave of Nuremberg and Prince of Rugen, presents his most benevolent greeting and ready services.

"We, most illustrious and most generous Earl, have always taken especial care to procure all things necessary and pertaining to hunting, as well in our own countries, as in those of our neighbours, and others; and since, at this time, we stand in need of hounds, and have learned from many persons who have highly extolled your generosity in this respect, that your Excellency is abundantly furnished, not only with hunting instruments, but also with all things necessary for the same, especially with dogs of this species, (which is laudable and honourable,) we request, if the thing can be done, that your Excellency will not refuse us the favour of some dogs well trained to the chase, the species and quality of which our messengers will explain to you. We, in our turn, will by no means deny your Excellency any similar or greater favour, if you should desire such, but with a benevolent alacrity, &c.

of Pie Powder to be held by the Steward of the Manor on the fair days.

The Corporation of Leicester, in 1617, preparatory to another royal visit to Ashby, agreed to give Lord Huntingdon a yoke of fat oxen, worth, as it is specified, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* or 14*l.* Indeed, the visits of the King became so frequent, and often lasted so long, that the enormous cost of entertaining him and his numerous followers in such sumptuous and magnificent style, was said to have materially impaired Lord Huntingdon's fortune. It was even insinuated, that his Majesty's covert and ungenerous purpose, in thus conferring the expensive honour of his company, was to involve, by this means, the circumstances of his noble host in embarrassment, in order thereby to disable him from all attempt, and quell all ambition, after the Crown. However this may be, it is certain that James, and his whole Court, were frequently quartered on his Lordship for many days together, during which, such was the more than princely splendour of Ashby Castle, the dinner was always served up by thirty poor knights, dressed in velvet gowns and gold chains. On these festive occasions, it was customary for the nobility, residing within several miles round of Ashby, to repair thither, in order to pay their respects to the King. This homage, according to a traditional anecdote, was omitted by Lord Stanhope, of Harrington, who was somewhat flighty and eccentric, and his Majesty, offended at this neglect, sent for him, and reproved him for lack of duty; "but," concluded the King, "I excuse you, for the people say that you are mad."—"I may be mad, my liege Sovereign," replied Lord Stanhope, "but I am not half so mad as my Lord Huntingdon here, who suffers himself to be worried by such a pack of bloodhounds."

In the year 1627, third of Charles the First, some serious dis-

agreement, attended with much animosity, occurred between the Earl of Huntingdon and Sir Henry Shirley, originating in consequence of the latter hawking on his Lordship's grounds. The unhandsome and injurious conduct of Sir Henry on this occasion, compelled the Earl to lay the circumstances of the case before Government, and complain against the aggressor. An investigation accordingly took place, and the result was soon after communicated to his Lordship in the following letter from the Lords of the Council:

“ After our very hearty commendations to your Lordship, we perceive, by your letters, that, upon some cause lately fallen out, you think yourself to suffer much in honour until you be righted. We therefore have strictly examined the account tendered on your Lordship's behalf by Mr. Riding; as also questioned Sir Henry Shirley for his carriage towards you and your Deputy Lieutenants; and we found reason to justify your Lordship, though perhaps, by the directions you had given, the country were put to some more charges than the occasion of service did since require; so for the disrespect given your Lordship, and the slighting your Deputy Lieutenants, by Sir Henry Shirley, we have thought fit to censure and punish him as the cause well deserveth: assuring your Lordship that both your honour and your actions, tending to advance the King's services, as hitherto they have done, will ever be nobly esteemed and preserved by us. And so we bid your Lordship very heartily farewell. Your Lordship's loving friends.”

But this unpleasant quarrel did not terminate here, being, on some further provocation, brought before the House of Peers, June 11, 1628, and again investigated, when the following proceedings were entered on the records of the House :

“ The Lords having examined the carriage of Sir Henry Shirley towards the Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Lieutenant of the county of Leicester, and heard what could be said on both sides, do order that the said Sir Henry shall stand committed during pleasure ; and that he shall here at the bar acknowledge his sorrow for the great offences he hath committed in laying aspersions and scandals upon the honour of so noble a person and peer of this realm, as the said Earl of Huntingdon is ; and ask pardon of all the Lords in general for it, and of the Earl of Huntingdon in particular ; and promise that by his future carriage he will endeavour to make amends to the Lords in general, and to the said Earl in particular, for his former offences. And because divers things, tending to the dishonour of the said Earl were spoken by the said Sir Henry, in the hearing of many, their Lordships have thought it agreeable to their justice, and care of so noble and well deserving a member of this House as the said Earl is, that this much may be published by the judges, at the next assizes, at the borough of Leicester, that all men may know how clear, from the least blemish, the honour of the said Earl doth stand.”—“ Sir Henry Shirley, prisoner in the Fleet, for scandalising the Earl of Huntingdon, (by order of June 7,) was this day brought to the bar, where he made the acknowledgment and submission aforesaid, which the Lords accepted of, and then he was withdrawn.”—“ The Earl of Huntingdon gave the Lords thanks for their noble care to clear his honour, and promised not to trouble the said Sir Henry by any other suits for the said scandals ; and desired the Lords that the said Sir Henry might be enlarged : all which was signified unto the said Sir Henry, being at the bar again, and they were ordered by the House, and that the publication of the submission (*ut supra*), at the next assizes, is left unto the said Earl of Huntingdon.”

Towards the latter end of the same year, the Earl of Huntingdon was, in like manner, honourably vindicated in the Star Chamber, from a similar slanderous attack made upon his character by Sir William Faunt, who was punished by a heavy fine.

His Lordship, in 1630, was at the head of a general Commission of Knighthood, for the better fulfillment of the duties of which station he received a body of instructions from the Government.

In 1634, the Corporation of Leicester, as we find it recorded, presented the Earl of Huntingdon, his Countess, and the Countess of Derby, with a tierce of claret, four gallons of sack, and two sugar loaves of six or seven pounds a piece.

A letter from the Lords of the Council, dated from Whitehall, the last day of June, 1638, requires his Lordship to give immediate orders to his Deputy-Lieutenants for the mustering and disciplining the trained bands, &c. and further directs him to make an accurate return thereon to the Muster-Master-General. Another letter from the same, dated, April 1639, and addressed jointly to the Earl and his son Lord Hastings, as Lord Lieutenants of the Counties of Leicester and Rutland, conveys his Majesty's express command, that all lieutenants of counties should reside within their several lieutenancies, and oblige their deputies, for whose conduct they will be held responsible, to do so likewise. Such "note of preparation" was ominous of the evils then brooding in the state; and the obstinate contentions between Charles and the Parliament having at last festered into rebellion, the Earl of Huntingdon, at the bursting out of the disastrous civil war that ensued, was one of the foremost to espouse the Royal cause in Leicestershire, his name being placed at the head of the commission of array. The commission was accompanied by the following letter:

“ Charles R.

“ Right trusty and right well-beloved cousins, and right trusty and well-beloved, we greet you well. Whereas it hath been declared by the votes of both Houses of Parliament, the 15th of March last, that the kingdom hath been of late, and still is, in so evident and imminent danger, both from enemies abroad, and a popish discontented party at home, that there is an urgent and inevitable necessity of putting our subjects into a posture of defence, for the safeguard both of our person and people; and that since, divers inhabitants of divers counties, have addressed their petitions to that purpose: And whereas a small number of both Houses (after it had been rejected by the Lords in a full house, and without our royal assent, or the opinion of the judges, concerning the legality thereof) have attempted, by way of ordinance, to put in execution the power of the militia of the kingdom, and to dispossess many of our antient nobility of the command and trust reposed in them by us, and have nominated divers others, who have no interest in, nor live near to some of the counties to which they are nominated for the lieutenantcy, whereby they cannot properly be serviceable to the counties wherewith they are entrusted, nor our people receive that content and security which we desire they should: to submit to the execution of which power by the ordinance, without it were reduced into a law by act of parliament established by our royal assent, were to introduce and expose our subjects to a mere arbitrary government, which, by God's grace, we shall never permit: We, therefore, considering that, by the laws of the realm, it belongeth solely to us to order and govern the militia of the kingdom, have thereupon by our proclamation of the 27th of May last, prohibited all manner of persons whatsoever, upon their allegiance, to muster, levy, or summon, upon any warrant, order, or ordinance, from one or both Houses of Par-



liament, whereunto we have not, or shall not give our express consent, any of the trained bands, or other officers, without express warrant under our hands, or warrant from our sheriff of the county, grounded upon a particular writ to that purpose under our great seal: And considering, that in antient time, the militia of the kingdom was ever disposed of by commissions of array, and that by a particular statute upon record in the Tower, made in the fifth year of Henry the Fourth, by full consent of the prelates, earls, barons, and commons, and at their suit, and by the advice and opinion of the judges then had, such commissions were mitigated in respect of some clauses perilous to the commissions, and approved of for the time to come; and that by the subsequent records, it appeareth, that all our royal predecessors have continually exercised that power by such commissions, till of late time they have been discontinued by the grants of particular commissions of lieutenancy, little differing in substance from the said commissions of array, against which it seems the Houses have taken some exception. And though we are no way satisfied of the illegality of them, our counsel being never heard in the defence thereof, yet being willing to avoid all exceptions at present, we have thought fit to refer it to that antient legal way of disposing the power of the militia by such commissions of array for the defence of us, our kingdom, and our country; authorizing you, or any three of you, or any three or more of you, to array and train our people, and to apportion and assess such persons as have estates, and are not able to bear arms, to find arms for other men, in a reasonable and moderate proportion, and conduct them so arrayed, as well to the coast as other places, for the opposition and destruction of our enemies in case of danger, as to your discretions, or any three or more of you, shall seem meet: whereof you, Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, and in your absence, William,

Earl of Devon, or Henry Hastings, Esq. to be one : and being both confident, in a great measure, of the loyal affections of our people, and very tender to bring any unnecessary burthen or charge on them by augmenting the number of the trained bands, we do, for the present, only require, that you forthwith cause to be mustered and trained all the antient trained bands, and freehold bands of the county, carefully seeing that they be supplied with able and sufficient persons, and completely armed, unless you find that there be just cause, and that it shall be with the good liking of the inhabitants, for their own better security, to make any increase of their numbers; and over such bands to appoint and set such colonels, captains, and officers, as you shall think most fit for the discharge of that service, being such persons as have considerable interest in the county, and not strangers; and in case of any opposition, you are to raise the power of the county to suppress it, and to commit all such persons as shall be rebellious herein into the custody of the sheriff, whose care and assistance we especially require, and that he shall, from time to time, issue forth such warrants for the assembling of our people, at such times and places, as by you shall be agreed on, according to the trust reposed in him by our said commission. And we have authorized you our Commissioners, or any three of you, after such array made from time to time, to train and take musters of our said bands, and to provide beavers and other necessities for the better exercising of our people, and discovery of sudden invasions and commotions. All of which your proceedings herein, we expect a speedy and plenary account, according to the trust reposed in you, and authority given you by our commission on that behalf.

“Given at our Court at York, the 12th day of June, in the eighteenth year of our reign, 1642.”

The infirmities of age, however, now rendered Lord Huntingdon

incapable of those active exertions which his zeal prompted, and admonished him to retire. But his place was amply supplied by the services of his two sons, and particularly by those of Henry the youngest, whose ardent spirit and military genius shone conspicuous, as will presently be seen. His Lordship was, not long after, removed from the scenes of civil strife and bloodshed, which then disgraced and desolated his country. He died on the 14th of November, 1643, at Ashby, where he lies buried with his ancestors, and near his wife, Lady Elizabeth, who departed this life, in the White Friars, London, more than ten years before her husband, namely, on the 20th of January, 1633. The character of this amiable and excellent lady is beautifully epitomized in the following Epitaph written for her by the celebrated Lord Falkland, "whom every man of his time was proud to praise:"

"The chief perfection of both sexes join'd,  
 With neither vice nor vanity combined;  
 Of this our age, the wonder, love, and care,  
 Th' example of the following, and despair;  
 Such beauty! that from all hearts love must flow,  
 Such majesty! that none durst tell her so.  
 A wisdom of so large and potent sway,  
 Rome's *Senate* might have wished, her *Conclave* may;  
 Which did to earthly thoughts so seldom bow,  
 Alive, she scarce was less in heaven than now.  
 So void of the least pride, to her alone  
 These radiant excellencies seemed unknown.  
 Such worth there *was*: but let thy grief appear,  
 Reader! there is not—Huntingdon lies here!  
 "By him who says what he saw, FALKLAND."

At her funeral a sermon was preached, which was afterwards published, with a neat print of her Ladyship in front, engraved by J. Payne. Mr. Granger makes mention of a portrait of her by Marshall, inscribed, "*Eliz. nuper Comitissa Huntingdon.*" with two

angels holding a coronet over her head ; and he also notices a small oval print of the Earl, by Hollar. In the town-hall of Leicester, there is a portrait of his Lordship, representing him dressed in his robes, collar, and ribbon of the Garter, with a black cap, large ruff, and a pointed beard. His right hand bears a white wand, and above the figure is a pannel, on which is inscribed a list of his numerous gifts to the corporation. The following undated letter, written about the year 1610, by Lady Elizabeth to her husband, is worth preserving for its simple style of expression, and the endearing sincerity of affection which it breathes. Some of my readers may, perhaps, be mischievous enough to discover, that the postscript tends to verify a saying still extant concerning that interesting portion of a woman's letter.

“ Deare Sweet Hearte,

“ I prayes God wee came very well hither, and aboute forr a'clock: the waters wear deepe and not passable at Bellgrave, wherfor Mr. Rydings guyded us another waye over St. Sundaye's bridge. Your much love and care of mee makes mee trouble you with my passage hither: God willing, I will be in the coache to-morrow by seaven a'clocke, for tis a long journey. Your mayrs goe very well, and the chariot-mayer I will sende backe as you appointed. I will from hence wryte to my La. Graye your excuse and my owne ; my Lo. is gone to my La. Sherwood's, butt his eldest sonn fell sicke and stayed my La.'s journeye. Newse I know non. Mr. Rydings will wayte on you. Badger purposed before I came to coum to Don to-morrow or next day, and I wishe you any companey till I coum to foole up and suplye ther rooms. I beseech God send you health, and send us a happy meetinge. Indeede I shall wishe myself with you much sooner than I can coum ; and to hastne my comming I will loose noe tyme: I

will make it mayny dayes sooner downe, rather than staye, should the weather bee ill, after I have dun my business ; and I hope in God I shall be sooner backe than you expect mee, and as longe as I have lyffe, I will pray for yours ; and ever reste your most affectionat wyffe till death,

“ E. HUNTINGDON.”

“ As soone as I have supte, God willing I will to bed ; and wishe you ther, and in your owne bed agayne, with as much ease as I use to walke betweene my little cabbin and yours.

“ Sir J. Rad remembers his service to you ; he brings Nell to Northampton. I take S. Holk soe farr.”

By this Lady, Earl Henry left two sons, Ferdinando, sixth Earl, and Henry afterwards created Baron Loughborough ; and two daughters, Alice, married to Sir Gervaise Clifton, of Clifton, in Nottinghamshire, K. B. and Bart., and Elizabeth, espoused to Sir Hugh Calveley, of Lea, in the county of Chester, Knt.

Henry, the younger son, on whom the degree of Doctor of the Civil Law was conferred, was one of the original Commissioners of array for the county of Leicester, and signalised himself from the commencement of the unfortunate struggles of those times, by his undaunted bravery, military conduct, and indefatigable zeal, in support of the King's authority. He strenuously opposed the ordinance of the House of Commons concerning the militia, for which he was summoned by that assembly as a delinquent. When his Majesty visited Leicester in 1642, he was made High Sheriff, purposely, as Clarendon informs us, “ to contain the county within the limits of their duty by the power of that office, as well as by the interest and relation of his family.” At the first general engagement which took

place between the Royal and Parliamentary forces at Edge Hill, he gallantly charged the enemy at the head of a fine troop of horse raised by himself. After the subsequent advance of the King's army to Oxford, and his Majesty having fixed his quarters there, "Colonel Hastings," says the historian just quoted, "with his own troop of horse only, and some officers, which he easily gathered together, went with a commission into Leicestershire of Colonel-General of that county, and fixed himself at Ashby de la Zouch, the house of the Earl of Huntingdon, his father, who was then living, which he presently fortified, and in a very short time, by his interest there, raised so good a party of horse and foot, that he maintained many skirmishes with the Lord Grey (son to the Earl of Stamford) who had the command of the county under Parliament, and garrisoned the town of Leicester; the King's service being the more advanced by the notable animosities of the two families of Huntingdon and Stamford, between whom the county was divided passionately enough without any other quarrel. And now the sons fought the public quarrel with their private spirit and indignation. But the King had the advantage in his champion, the Lord Grey being a young man of no eminent parts, and only backed with the credit and authority of Parliament: whereas Colonel Hastings, though a younger brother, by his personal reputation, had supported his family; and by the interest of it, and the affection that people bore to him, brought, no doubt, an addition of power to the very cause. In-somuch as he not only defended himself against the forces of the Parliament in Leicestershire, but disquieted Sir John Gell, in Derbyshire, and fixed some convenient garrisons in Staffordshire." Notwithstanding the power and vigilance of the enemy in sundry parts along the route, he succeeded in conducting the Queen in safety from Yorkshire, where she landed, to the King's quarters at Oxford.

He was afterwards constituted General of all the forces raised for the service of his Majesty in the counties of Leicester, Derby, Nottingham, Lincoln, Rutland, and Stafford; and in further consideration of his inflexible loyalty, and eminent services, was, by letters patent, dated October 29, 1643, created Baron of Loughborough, in the county of Leicester, to him and the heirs male of his body. While these things were going forward on the one hand, the House of Commons, on the other, successively denounced him as a delinquent, impeached him, with Sir Henry Halford and others, of high treason, and voted a proclamation for his appearance on a certain day. In the House of Lords also, he was accused, together with the Marquis of Hertford, and the Earl of Northampton, of high treason, for levying war against the authority of the Parliament, or, as, to colour over their usurpation, it was speciously termed, "against the King and kingdom." Pursuant to these measures, a messenger dispatched from both houses arrested him in Leicester, but he was rescued by his followers.

His Majesty was an inmate at Ashby Castle some days previous to his attack on Leicester, and, after the storming and capture of that place, appointed Lord Loughborough Governor of the garrison. The royal guest had occasion, unfortunately too soon, to repeat his visit. The disastrous and decisive battle of Naseby, which extinguished the hopes of the King's party, was fought shortly after, on Saturday the 14th of June, and his Majesty passed the night of that fatal day at Ashby. "Towards night," says one of the fugitives, describing the flight, "on that dismal Saturday we marched (for we had left off running) to Ashby." Next morning the King departed thence for Litchfield on his retreat to Wales. On the subsequent surrender of Leicester to the victorious Parliamentary forces under Sir Thomas Fairfax, Lord Loughborough returned to Ashby,

which was speedily invested by a strong body detached from Sir Thomas's army, and closely besieged for several months. During this siege, his Lordship's little band was at one time reduced by sickness to sixty men, but a seasonable reinforcement of six hundred of the King's troops having succeeded in joining him about that juncture, he was enabled to prolong the defence of his fortress. Such was the rigour of the assailants, that Thomas Davenport, of Hinckley, was fined 20*l.* for selling wine for the use of the besieged party. The garrison, mean time, animated with the spirit of their gallant leader, made several brilliant and successful sallies. But, on the 7th of February, a formidable detachment of cavalry from Leicester surprised the centinels by night, passed the turnpike, broke the chain, and, entering the town, carried off one hundred horses with much pillage. A loss so disheartening to men already exhausted by fatigue and warfare, and with very limited and precarious supplies, disposed his Lordship to accept terms of capitulation. The annexed articles for the surrender of this "maiden garrison," so styled because it never was actually conquered, were soon after drawn up, and transmitted to Parliament for its sanction. After a debate on the question, whether the sequestrations specified in the 8th article should be removed, they were agreed to, and finally ratified by the parties, on the 28th of February, 1645, nearly nine months from the time the siege began.

"Articles for the rendition of the King's garrison of Ashby Castle, made between Colonel-General Hastings (Lord Loughborough) and Colonel Needham, Governor of Leicester, for the Parliament, dated the last day of February, 1645.

"1. Imprimis, that all the officers and souldiers now at Ashby, and under the command of Colonell-Generall Hastings, and that are over and above the number hereafter specified, shall upon Monday next,



after the signing hereof (being the second day of March), depart and quit the garrison, and march away without further stay or continuance there.

“ 2. Item, That upon the Tuesday following, Colonell-Generall Hastings shall begin to sleight the works and fortifications of the town and garrison of Ashby, and to that end, shall endeavour and procure assistance from the countrie, as well as receive all such as be sent to that purpose, and not forbear untill the whole be sleighted and unfortified.

“ 3. Item, That at the end of three months hereafter specified, Colonell-Generall Hastings shall deliver up Ashby-house itself, being now a garrison of the King's, into the hands of his brother the Earl of Huntingdon.

“ 4. Item, That upon signing these articles, all prisoners of this countie whatsoever, to be set at libertie, and to have ticketts to go home.

“ 5. Item, That sufficient hostages (and such as shall be thought fit by Colonell Needham) be given for the safe return of any convoy that shall be granted by him.

“ 6. Item, That Colonell-Generall Hastings, with his officers, gentlemen, and souldiers, shall have libertie (if they please) to march away to Bridgenorth, or Worcester, with their horses, armes, and ammunition, bagg and baggage, trumpets sounding, drums beating, colours flying, matches lighted in both ends, muskets loaded, one brass gun, and a case of sacks in boxes, and have sufficient carriage allowed them, and six days libertie for their passage.

“ 7. Item, That Colonell-Generall Hastings, his officers, and gentlemen, and also all manner of persons, as well souldiers as others, and that are members of that garrison, and now belonging to it, shall have libertie to lay down their armes, and have protections to live at

home, if they please, they submitting to all ordinances of parliament.

“ 8. Item, That all the sequestrations of Colonell-Generall Hastings, the Earl of Huntingdon, and Colonel Perkyns (Governor of Ashby-house) be taken off upon the sleighting of Ashby garrison.

“ 9 Item, That Sir Richard Skeffington, and Colonel Needham, shall have liberty and power to compound for the estates of such officers and gentlemen as are expressed in the list given in ; whether of Leicester, Derby, Stafford, Nottingham, or Warwickshire, or so many of them as shall think fit to compound with them for their estates.

“ 10. Item, Colonell-Generall Hastings, with the said gentlemen and their servants that desire to stay with him, not exceeding the number of one hundred, may have free libertie to stay at Ashby, for three months after the signing of these articles, and not to be molested during the said term for any debts or engagements, or otherwise, by any of the Parliamentary party, they doing nothing prejudiciall to the Parliament.

“ 11. Item, That Colonell-Generall Hastings, and the said gentlemen, with their servants and horses, not exceeding in number of horses one hundred and fiftie, shall have a sufficient convoe and passe to Hull or Bristoll ; and therefrom, by order of Parliament, to have a shipp provided to transport them either to France or Holland, whether they please.

“ H. LOUGHBOROUGH, JOHN NEEDHAM.”

Notwithstanding the facilities provided by the concluding stipulation for his Lordship to depart the kingdom, and a special pass, granted, in May 1646, to him and his relative, Sir Aston Cockayne, to go beyond the seas, we find he still remained in the country, and continued strenuously to support the cause he had espoused. At the

siege of Colchester, during what was called the second war, when the famished garrison had eaten most of their horses, he was eminently useful in the distribution of provisions, to which he gave his unwearyed attention for a long time. An order of the Commons was made November the 10th, 1648, that seven of the persons that had been in the late engagements against the Parliament, from January the 1st, 1647, should be banished, and that Lord Loughborough should be one ; but this vote was revoked on the 13th of December following, "as destructive to the peace and quiet, and derogatory to the justice of the kingdom." The command of Ashby de la Zouch was given by the Parliament, about this time, to Thomas Lord Grey, who was ordered to provide for the securing, and safe keeping, the Duke of Hamilton a prisoner there. Shortly after, a Committee of the Commons, appointed to consider of all the fortresses of the kingdom, came to a resolution that Ashby de la Zouch should be forthwith demolished, and that James Earl of Cambridge, then a prisoner in the castle, for high treason, should be removed to Windsor. Conformably to this decision, the Committee, then sitting at Leicester, deputed some members to view the place, and several persons were employed to undermine and demolish the fortifications. Thus, with the downfall of the monarchy and the royal cause, fell this ancient and venerable structure, which during that perilous and troubled period of English History, and while in possession of the noble, brave, and loyal owners, served as a place of refuge to several eminent and pious divines, as well as many other adherents of the unfortunate Charles.\*

\* After this event, the Earl of Huntingdon, having fixed his abode at Donnington Park, was the less anxious to keep in repair the habitable part of his family mansion. Some considerable walls, however, still remain ; and the different parts of the old building, with the spacious cellars, and subterraneous drains and passages, may readily be distinguished. On the highest fragment, under a rich arch, are still the arms of Hastings, which are also

In the dispersion, prosecution, and exile of the King's friends which now followed, Lord Loughborough was, as may be supposed, a conspicuous sufferer. He was for some time a prisoner, but afterwards effected his escape to the Continent, where he remained in obscurity and exile during the greater part of the interregnum. After the restoration we again find him on the public stage, and enjoying the well-earned confidence of his sovereign. On the 5th of January, 1660, he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire; and, in 1664, his residence being then an old mansion in the

visible in several of the ruins; but it is rather remarkable that there is no ivy on the walls, which are built of the fairest and clearest ashler stone, admirably fitted together and cemented. Behind the castle, to the north, are two cavities, parallelogram, like ponds; and at the north-east corner of the garden is a hexagon brick summer-house, with a circular stair-case and a stone door-way, joined by an outer terrace to another, which stretches over to a second terrace, and is of brick, four-sided, round and square. Among the topographical prints collected by Dr. Combe, is a north view in the old palace of Ashby de la Zouch, something in Place's manner. Buck engraved, in 1730, south and north views of this castle. Views of it were also published by Grose, Sparrow, and Godfrey, in 1759; and in 1786, two small, but accurate etchings, (one of them a view within the great court of the castle,) by Mr. Carter, one of the first architectural draughtsmen of the present age. Another south view was engraved, in 1791, by Mr. Walker.

"I shall not," says the ingenious artist, Mr. Carter, "enter into the causes which have reduced this once splendid pile of buildings to their present state of ruin and curtailment, but confine myself to a few slight remarks on some of its principal remains.

"This castle in its dimensions seems to have known no bounds, either in the lines of arrangement, or in the altitude of the several stories. We can in particular trace out the great hall, kitchen, various chambers of state, the chapel, &c. wherein are found, in good preservation, rich door-ways, chimney-pieces, arms, devices, and other ornamental accompaniments, all which serve to show that this castle must have once vied, if not surpassed, all its castellated competitors for architectural fame that this country has produced. And yet do not these sentiments take possession of our imaginations when engaged in the like survey of any other of our ancient lordly abodes? How is it possible then to confine the meed of praise, since all these towering glories have alike claim for wonder and commendation. How endless must have been the track of journeying round the land in former times, that brought to view such proud scenes of array and triumph, and of hospitable reception. Enthusiasm must then have been one general impulse, inspiring each ardent soul to run the road of glory in law, in arts, in honour, and in arms."

parish of Lambeth, still called Loughborough House, he obtained an Act of Parliament, "to make the river and sewer navigable from or near Brixton Causeway, in the County of Surrey, into the river Thames." But the life and services of this brave and indefatigable nobleman were now approaching to a close, impaired as his health had been by the fatigues and dangers of military life and the vicissitudes of fortune. In 1665 he made his will, by which, after providing for the payment of all his debts, and some legacies, he bequeathed the residue of his property to his brother Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon; and, in the month of January the following year, died at London, unmarried. His remains were buried in the Collegiate Chapel of St. George, within the Castle of Windsor, in the aisle on the north side of the choir, not far from the grave of his illustrious ancestor, William Lord Hastings.

## CHAPTER IX.

OF FERDINANDO, SIXTH EARL OF HUNTINGDON, ELDEST SON OF HENRY,  
THE FIFTH EARL.

**F**ERDINANDO, sixth Earl of Huntingdon, heir and successor of Henry the fifth Earl, was born at Ashby, January 11th, 1608. In March, 1627, he was returned to serve in Parliament for the county of Leicester, and two years after was joined with his father in the Lieutenancy of the counties of Leicester and Rutland. By indenture, dated May, 1638, he and his brother Henry, in consideration of the sum of 4,500*l.* granted, to John Earl of Bridgewater and Thomas Davies, a moiety of the rectory of Mould, otherwise Mouldesdale, in Flintshire. On the 13th of November, 1641, his father being then still living, he had summons to Parliament amongst the barons of the realm; and in 1643 he succeeded to the family honours. He married Lucy, daughter and sole heir to Sir John Davys, of Englefield, Berks, Knt. (Premier Serjeant at Law to James the First, and Charles the First, as also Solicitor, and afterwards Attorney General in Ireland, and finally Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench,) by his wife, Lady Eleanor, youngest daughter of George Lord Audley, Earl of Castlehaven, and, settling at Donnington Park, had by her four sons; Henry, John, Ferdinando, and Theophilus, born after the decease of his three brothers; and likewise six daughters, Alice, Eleanor, both of whom died young; Elizabeth, married to Sir James Laughan, of Cottesbroke, in Notting-

hamshire, Bart. being his second wife, and dying without issue ; Lucy, who died unmarried ; Mary, espoused to Sir William Joliffe, of Caverswell Castle in Staffordshire, Knt. ; and lastly Christiana.

Of the sons, John, the second, died an infant in December, 1639. Ferdinando, the third son, died May 8, 1647, in his tenth year, and was buried at Ashby, where his father erected a suitable monument to his memory. The following epitaph is inscribed on a table of black marble, with a compartment of alabaster gilt, in the upper part a buffalo's head, with a ducal coronet about the neck ; in the lower, Argent, a maunch sable.

“ In Memoriam vere nobilis  
Ferdinando Hastings filii  
Tertii Honorandissimi  
Ferdinandi Comitis Hun-  
tingdoniæ qui Hanc Vitam  
Mutavit Anno Nono Ætatis suæ  
Anno Dom. 1647. Octavo Maii.  
Ferdinando Hastings.  
Of God he stands in fear,  
Is of his name  
The anagram:  
So of his pious mind  
The happy character.”

The loss of two sons, it may be conceived, was sufficiently distressing to a parent's feelings, but a still severer trial was reserved for them. Little more than two years after, on the 24th of June, 1649, Lord Henry, the eldest son, just in the flower of youth, and the love and admiration of all who knew him, was also cut off. He died of the small-pox, in his twentieth year, under the additional grief to his parents of his being then an only son, and, for a climax of affliction, on the very eve of his nuptials. The premature death of this amiable young nobleman, who, to the sweetest disposition, and

the most polished manners, added great proficiency in literature and a promise of uncommon talents, was a subject of universal lamentation and sympathy. Several of the most distinguished characters of that period, whether for worth, abilities, or elevated rank, joined the homage of their regrets, and paid "the meed of a melodious tear" to his Lordship's memory. Nearly an hundred elegiac poems were composed on the melancholy occasion, and afterwards published under the title of "*Lachrymæ Musarum ; the Tears of the Muses ; expressed in Elegies written by divers Persons of Nobility and Worth, upon the Death of the most hopeful Henry, Lord Hastings, only Son of the Right Honourable Ferdinando Earl of Huntingdon, Heir-general to the high-born Prince George, Duke of Clarence, Brother to King Edward the Fourth: collected and set forth by R. B. 1649.*" Among the eminent names, contributors to this collection, we find Lord Falkland, Dryden, Marvel, Herrick, Denham, the Honourable Ralph Montagu, and many others who emulated each other in celebrating the virtues of the deceased, and enshrining his character in immortal verse. A few select flowers, transplanted from this funereal garland of the Muses, cannot be deemed exotics here.

The following epitaphs were proposed :

" HERE lies the age's paramount, the store  
Of Albion's shame, because it mourns no more,  
And since the fate is so, if for his fall  
We cannot weep enough, our children shall." J. ROSSE.

" TREAD off, profaner feet! forbear  
To press this hallowed mould, where lies  
Firm virtue's and high honour's heir,  
The darling of the courteous skies,  
Who, by rare parts, the flight of fame  
In life outwent; in death his name." THOMAS BANCROFT.



" THREE royal Henries, sprung from Huntingdon,  
 We saw alive: the first and last are gone  
 Bright saints to heaven, above all fancy'd spheres,  
 To meet their sovereign in that House of Peers.  
 The third \* God's hand by wonder hath preserved,  
 In whom their honour trebly is reserved.  
 So Sybil's books consumed, the last contains  
 Their precious truths, and treble value gains.  
 Howe'er we sadly mourn, his nephew's fate  
 Makes widowed England still more desolate.  
 Oh, never such a son to parent's mind!  
 Oh, never subject loyaller inclined!  
 Oh, none more pious, none more man, so soon  
 Ripe for his set, ere raised to half his noon.  
 That mightier hand that stopped the mighty sun,  
 Canst thou his circle sooner make him run?  
 A varied fever had surprised his head,  
 And death ensued when royal blood he bled;  
 Bodies live not when head and heart decays,  
 Where all their veins are right Basilicas;  
 The fountain dried, how should the channel run?  
 Good night to stars when darkened is the sun.  
 Thus royal, loyal, learn'd, lov'd Hastings lies,  
 All good men's loss, to saints a glorious prize."

THOMAS PESTELLUS, filius.

*Upon the Death of Lord Hastings, by Dryden.*

" MUST noble Hastings immaturely die,  
 The honour of his ancient family,  
 Beauty and learning thus together meet,  
 To bring a winding for a wedding sheet?  
 Must virtue prove death's harbinger? must she,  
 With him expiring, feel mortality?  
 Is death, sin's wages, grace's now? shall art  
 Make us more learned, only to depart?  
 If merit be disease; if virtue death;  
 To be good, not to be; who'd then bequeath  
 Himself to discipline? who'd not esteem  
 Labour a crime? study self-murder deem?

\* Henry, Lord Loughborough.

Our noble youth now have pretence to be  
Dunces securely, ignorant healthfully.  
Rare linguist, whose worth speaks itself, whose praise  
Though not his own, all tongues besides do raise :  
Than whom great Alexander may seem less ;  
Who conquer'd men, but not their languages.  
In his mouth nations spake ; his tongue might be  
Interpreter to Greece, France, Italy.  
His native soil was the four parts o' the earth ;  
All Europe was too narrow for his birth.  
A young apostle ; and, with reverence may  
I speak 't, inspir'd with gift of tongues, as they.  
Nature gave him, a child, what men in vain  
Oft strive, by art though further'd, to obtain.  
His body was an orb, his sublime soul  
Did move on virtue's and on learning's pole :  
Whose regular motions better to our view,  
Than Archimedes' sphere, the heavens did shew.  
Graces and virtues, languages and arts,  
Beauty and learning, fill'd up all the parts.  
Heaven's gifts, which do like falling stars appear  
Scatter'd in others ; all, as in their sphere,  
Were fix'd, conglobate in his soul : and thence  
Shone through his body, with sweet influence ;  
Letting their glories so on each limb fall,  
The whole frame render'd was celestial.  
Come, learned Ptolemy, and trial make,  
If thou this hero's altitude can'st take :  
But that transcends thy skill ; thrice happy all,  
Could we but prove thus astronomical.  
Liv'd Tycho now, struck with this ray, which shone  
More bright i' the morn', than others beam at noon,  
He'd take his astrolabe, and seek out here  
What new star 'twas did gild our hemisphere.  
Replenish'd then with such rare gifts as these,  
Where was room left for such a foul disease ?  
The nation's sin hath drawn that veil, which shrouds  
Our day-spring in so sad benighting clouds.  
Heaven would no longer trust its pledge ; but thus  
Recall'd it ; rapt its Ganymede from us.  
Was there no milder way but the small-pox,  
The very filthiness of Pandora's box ?

So many spots, like næves on Venus' soil,  
 One jewel set off with so many a foil;  
 Blisters with pride swell'd, which through's flesh did sprout  
 Like rose-buds, stuck i' the lilly skin about.  
 Each little pimple had a tear in it,  
 To wail the fault its rising did commit:  
 Which, rebel like, with its own lord at strife,  
 Thus made an insurrection 'gainst his life.  
 Or were these gems sent to adorn his skin,  
 The cabinet of a richer soul within?  
 No comet need foretel his change drew on,  
 Whose corpse might seem a constellation.  
 O! had he died of old, how great a strife  
 Had been, who from his death should draw their life?  
 Who should, by one rich draught, become whate'er  
 Seneca, Cato, Numa, Cæsar, were?  
 Learn'd, virtuous, pious, great; and have by this  
 An universal metempsychosis.  
 Must all these aged sires in one funeral  
 Expire? all die in one so young, so small?  
 Who, had he liv'd his life out, his great fame  
 Had swol'n 'bove any Greek or Roman name.  
 But hasty winter, with one blast, hath brought  
 The hopes of autumn, summer, spring, to nought.  
 Thus fades the oak i' the sprig, i' the blade the corn,  
 Thus without young, this Phoenix dies, new born.  
 Must then old three-legg'd grey-beards with their gout,  
 Catarrhs, rheums, aches, live three ages out?  
 Time's offals, only fit for the hospital!  
 Or to hang antiquaries' rooms withal!  
 Must drunkards, lechers, spent with sinning, live  
 With such helps as broths, possets, physic give?  
 None live, but such as should die? shall we meet  
 With none but ghostly fathers in the street?  
 Grief makes me rail; sorrow will force its way;  
 And show'rs of tears tempestuous sighs best lay.  
 The tongue may fail; but overflowing eyes  
 Will weep out lasting streams of elegies.

" But thou, O virgin-widow, left alone,  
 Now thy belov'd, heaven-ravish'd spouse is gone,  
 Whose skilful sire in vain strove to apply

Med'cines, when thy balm was no remedy,  
With greater than Platonic love, O wed  
His soul, though not his body, to thy bed:  
Let that make thee a mother; bring thou forth  
The ideas of his virtue, knowledge, worth;  
Transcribe the original in new copies; give  
Hastings o' the better part: so shall he live  
In's nobler half; and the great grandsire be  
Of an heroic divine progeny:  
An issue, which to eternity shall last,  
Yet but the irradiations which he cast.  
Erect no mausoleums: for his best  
Monument is his spouse's marble breast."

Not long after the death of this so much lamented young nobleman his afflicted parents were blest by Providence with another son, Theophilus, who inherited the title, and was seventh Earl.

Succeeding to the earldom, at a period when the civil war was raging in its utmost fury, Earl Ferdinando was exposed to the persecution of the parliamentary faction, the more especially from the known loyalty and devotion of all his family to the royal cause. That he experienced a considerable share of the hardships inflicted by the usurping party, after they had got the upper hand, appears by a petition, which he presented to the Lords, November 4, 1645, setting forth, "That he continued his attendance upon the Parliament a year after the loss of his estate in Ireland, till he could no longer subsist in London, and then, with the leave of the House, he returned into the country to his mansion at Donnington Park, where he remained during his father's life, in whose life-time Ashby de la Zouch was made a garrison; but, after his father's decease, by reason of the uncivil carriage of Captain Hotham's soldiers, who took him prisoner, and carried him to Nottingham, he was forced for his security to go to Ashby, where he continued, in which time of his continuance he neither took arms, nor gave contribution, nor

joined to their councils or commissions ; and, though he was divers times sent for to Oxford, never went, in which time of his abode at Ashby the Committee at Leicester sequestered his estate, which, in respect of the premises, he hopeth their Lordships will be pleased to free, because he hath lost in Ireland near 1000*l.* a-year, and that which he hath in England being subject to armies, and Ashby, by reason of the garrison, useless to him ; and the whole estate (making no deductions for taxes) not amounting to 900*l.* a-year ; and considering his great charge of seven children unbrought up, and unprovided for ; besides for his degree there are some thousand pounds debts, whereunto he fell in his father's time, his lands being so entailed, that if he should die all are alike to suffer ; therefore he desires that his sequestration may be taken off his estate." This petition was recommended to the consideration of the House of Commons.

Judging from this representation of his conduct, furnished by himself, his Lordship appears to have assumed rather a neutral and pacific attitude between the contending parties. Accordingly we hear little more of him in public life till 1653 ; in the November of which year it was provided, in an act then passed to enable him to sell some lands for the payment of his own debts and his father's, and to restrain him from making leases of other lands to the prejudice of his issue, that, from September the 30th of that year, he should stand seized, in fee simple, of the manor of Loughborough, with all its appurtenances of Bowden Wood, and of Alton Grange, with full power and authority to dispose of the same for the liquidation of his debts. Connected with this, is another act passed in 1662, after his Lordship's death, which confirms the sale of Bowden Wood, Loughborough Park, Alton Grange, and several parcels of the manor of Loughborough, made by him during his life-time for the payment of his own and his father's debts.

His Lordship departed this life February 13, 1655, in his 48th year, at Donnington Park, where he had spent the concluding years of his life in tranquil domestic retirement, to the stronger relish of which his own family afflictions, as well as the uncertain state of public affairs, may well be supposed to have formed his mind. His remains were deposited with those of his ancestors, without any monumental inscription; but we shall here insert the Epitaph written and proposed for him by his relative, Sir Aston Cockayne.

“ An Epitaph on my most honoured kinsman, Ferdinando, Earl of Huntingdon, who deceased at his house in Donnington Park, about the 48th year of his age, and was buried at Ashby de la Zouch.

“ Here Ferdinando, Earl of Huntingdon,  
Doth lie interred under this marble stone,  
Which will weep tears of dew if we refrain  
To shed our tears; yet weeping is in vain,  
Nor sighs, nor tears, will call him from his urn  
Then let our griefs to imitation turn,  
Let's emulate his worthy parts (for such  
His qualities were) and we shall merit much;  
For each man may report that passeth by,  
Courtesy and good-nature here do lye.”

## CHAPTER X.

## OF THEOPHILUS, SEVENTH EARL OF HUNTINGDON.

**T**HEOPHILUS, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, fourth, and only surviving son of Ferdinando, the sixth Earl, was born at Donnington Park, December 10, 1650, not long after the so much lamented death of his elder brother, Lord Henry,—a propitious circumstance, which, in some measure, consoled the sorrow, as it revived the hopes, of the family. His baptism was marked by the additional solemnity of a sermon, in which the preacher appositely said, “Deus abstulit, et Deus dedit;” “for one, and that then an only son, lately taken into the kingdom of glory, God has given them another this day to be admitted into the kingdom of grace.” He succeeded to the title February 13, 1655, while yet an infant; received summons to parliament by descent April 15, 1672; and first took his seat as peer, by his proxy, the Duke of York, February 15, of the following year. It appears, by the concurrent report of several historians, that his Lordship had confederated himself, or entered into some correspondence, with the Duke of Monmouth and his adherents in the reign of Charles the Second. It is, however, due to truth, and to his character, to state, that this connection was inadvertent on his part, and, at worst, only of very short duration. He lent himself, in the first instance, to the association, without being made distinctly acquainted with its nature and ultimate objects; but, the moment he saw reason to suspect that the

subversion of the existing government was contemplated, he immediately and wholly withdrew. About this time his Majesty appointed him of the Privy Council, and soon after Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire,—circumstances which abundantly prove that his loyalty was above all imputation. In September, 1684, the corporation of the town of Leicester, at the persuasion of the well known Judge Jeffries, having surrendered their old charter, his Lordship, under a new one then granted, which reduced the number of the common council to thirty-six, was constituted Recorder, and Nathan Wright, Esq. his Deputy.

On the decease of King Charles, February 6, 1684, the Earl of Huntingdon was one of those who signed the order at Whitehall, for proclaiming James the Second. Immediately after, his Lordship was constituted Custos Rotulorum of the County of Leicester, and nominated of the Privy Council, appointed Chief Justice in Eyre of all the King's forests, chaces, parks, and warrens, north of Trent, Lord Lieutenant of the counties of Huntingdon and Derby, Captain of a Band of Gentlemen Pensioners, and Colonel of the 13th Regiment of Foot. The same year, as lineal descendant of the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, he preferred his claim to the honour of carrying the third sword, and of being Pantler, at the Coronation. But this full tide of official honours quickly ebbed at the revolution, which followed soon after. Adhering to the interests of the dethroned Prince, conformably to the rigid principles of loyalty which had ever governed his ancestors, he was divested of all his offices, and excluded the benefit of King William's Act of Indemnity, May 30, 1690. About two years after, upon advice laid before Government of a meditated descent from La Hogue, in favour of James, he was committed close prisoner to the Tower; and in 1701, he was one of the Peers who protested against the Act of



Settlement. His Lordship departed this life on the 30th of May following, at his house, in Charles-street, St. James's, London, in his fiftieth year. His remains were conveyed with due respect and solemnity to Ashby, and deposited in the family chapel, which, together with the chancel of the church, he had, during his life-time, been at considerable expense to repair and embellish, particularly the fine old tomb of Francis, the second Earl. On the west side of this chapel, a mural monument was erected to his memory, with a Latin inscription, recording the several public offices conferred on his Lordship during the reigns of Charles and James, his marriages, and issue. By his will, dated 1698, and proved in 1701, he expressly directs, that his coronet, and his robes of velvet and scarlet, together with his pedigree and seals, shall descend to all future Earls of Huntingdon of his family. Of this nobleman, there is an eminently beautiful mezzo-tinto print, by R. Williams, from an original portrait, by Kneller, dated 1687, with the following arms, quarterly, underneath: first, Hastings; second, Clarence; third, Pole; fourth, Moules.

Earl Theophilus was married, first, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter and coheir to Sir John Lewis, of Ledstone, in Yorkshire, Knight and Baronet, and by her had issue two sons, Thomas, who died an infant, and George, successor to the title; and six daughters, Lucy, Sarah, Elizabeth, Maria, Dorothea, and Christiana, all of whom died either infants or unmarried; and secondly, on the 2d of May, 1690, to Frances, daughter and sole heir to Francis Levison Fowler, of Harnage-Grange, in the county of Salop, Esq. (by Anne, his wife, second daughter to Peter Venables, Baron of Kinderton, in Cheshire, and widow of Thomas Needham, Viscount Kilmurry, in Ireland,) by whom he was father of two sons, Theophilus, successor to his half brother George, and Ferdinando, who died at the age of

twenty-seven years, unmarried; and five daughters, Lady Anne Jaqueline, born May 1, 1691; died, July, 1755, bequeathing her seal, with the arms of the family, to the Reverend Theophilus Hastings, uncle to Hans Francis, the eleventh and present Earl; Lady Alice, who died January, 1691; Lady Frances, born January 8, 1694; died, January 23, 1750; Lady Catherine Maria, born February 13, 1691; and lastly, Lady Margaret, who died a child in 1700. Of these five daughters, Lady Catherine Maria, the fourth, was the only married one. She was espoused by the Reverend Granville Wheeler, Prebendary of Durham, and son and heir of Sir George Wheeler, of Otterden Place, in Kent, Knight. This Rev. Gentleman educated Theophilus, uncle to the present Earl.

The Lady Elizabeth, his Lordship's second daughter by the first marriage, who was born April 19, 1682, and died at Ledstone, December 22, 1739, is justly celebrated as a rare and exalted pattern of every virtue becoming her rank and sex. Equally religious and charitable, her life was divided between piety to God, and beneficence towards the poor, not only bountifully relieving their wants, but providing also for their instruction. Illustrious by birth, dignified by station, and mistress of an ample fortune by inheritance, these earthly and perishable accidents seemed, as it were, eclipsed, or lost, amidst the superior and heavenly lustre which goodness threw around her. The theme of universal praise, as the object of universal love, reverence, and admiration, the perfection of her character was such, as fully to justify the appellation of "divine Aspasia," bestowed on her by the poet Congreve. "She was," says one of the records of that time, "amiable in her person; her mien genteel; polite her manners; agreeable her conversation; her judgment solid; her regard to friendship sacred; her sense of honour strict to the last degree; and of so rare modesty and humility, that a

more disagreeable thing could not be done, than publishing her good deeds, and rendering her due praise. She was, above all, a sincere Christian, and a genuine daughter of the Church of England. Her piety towards God was ardent and unaffected, and her benevolence towards her fellow-creatures was such as the good angels are blessed with. Thousands had she comforted and relieved; many enriched and advanced. Her patience and resignation under her last, long, and tedious illness; her mourning for the sins of men; her unwearied endeavours for their eternal welfare; her generous and charitable appointments to her physicians, would require whole pages to set them in a proper light. In short, scarcely any age has afforded a greater blessing to many, or a brighter pattern to all."

Upon the death of her brother George, her Ladyship succeeded, as heir to her mother, to the manors of Ledstone, Ledsham, Thorpe-Arche, Collingham, Wheldale, Wyke, and Shadwell; in the first four of which, she erected charity-schools; and for the support of them, and other charities, she gave, in her life time, Collingham, Shadwell, and her estate in Burton Salmon. She also gave 1000*l.* for the erection of a new church at Leeds; but in order that this donation might not hurt the mother church there, she afterwards, as related in the "Memorials and Characters of Illustrious Persons," offered a farm near that town, of the value of 23*l.* a year, and capable of improvement, to be settled on the Vicar and his successors, provided the town would do as much on their part. With this condition the Corporation readily acquiesced, and, to her Ladyship's benefaction, added lands of the yearly value of 24*l.* for the application of which they were to be entirely answerable to her kindred. At her decease, which took place in her fifty-seventh year, this excellent Lady, moreover, bequeathed considerable sums for charitable and public uses, amongst which were five scholarships in Queen's Col-

lege, Oxford, for students in divinity, of 28*l.* a year each, to be enjoyed for five years ; and, as the rents should rise, some of the scholars to be capable, in time, of having 60*l.* a year, for one or two years after the first term. The residue of her estate she left to the Earl of Huntingdon, and his heirs. Her remains were deposited, with great funeral solemnity, in the family vault at Ledstone, near those of her grandfather, Sir John Lewis, in a leaden coffin, bearing an inscription, which sets forth the time of her birth and death, with some of her public charities ; and concludes, by describing her Ladyship as “ a pattern of all that’s good, and all that’s great.”

## CHAPTER XI.

OF GEORGE, THE EIGHTH EARL OF HUNTINGDON; AND THEOPHILUS,  
THE NINTH EARL.

**G**EORGE, eldest son of Theophilus, by his first marriage, was born March 22, 1677, and, succeeding to the title on the decease of his father, was eighth Earl of Huntingdon. His Lordship took his seat in the House of Peers, June 13, 1701; and, at the Coronation of Queen Anne, April 23, 1702, had the distinguished honour of carrying the sceptre before her Majesty. During the same year, he served under the famous Duke of Marlborough, on the Continent, and signalized himself at the sieges of Venlo and Ruremond. But his career of honour, thus commenced under such brilliant auspices, and which promised so much advantage to his country, exultation to his friends, and celebrity to himself, was destined too soon to close. This excellent young nobleman, universally beloved and admired for his sweet, ingenuous, and manly disposition, died, unmarried, February 22, 1704, at the early age of twenty-seven years, and was buried at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, London. His amiable and affectionate sister, the good Lady Elizabeth, caused to be erected to his memory, on the north side of the altar, a large and curious monument of white marble, ornamented with Cupids, each holding a helmet, besides trophy-work, an urn, and at the base, the face of envy. Arms, Hastings, 16 Coats quarterly. The following elegant Latin inscription on this monument describes the character, merits, and services of the deceased.

Hic situs est Georgius comes de Huntingdon  
 præclarâ Hastingsorum prosapia natus  
 et nepte ex Plantagenetorum stemmate oriundus  
 Literarum humanarum cultor indefessus  
 in aulâ splendidus in acie imperterritus ubique probus  
 Tanta fecit ei morum suavitas cum gravitate  
 comitas cum fide benignitas  
 tantus animi candor ingenuus  
 ut tot numeraverit amicos quot familiares  
 Procul habuit molliem atque inertiam  
 turpe existimans quos dignitate præstet ab his  
 virtute superari  
 Flagrante per Europam bello  
 Salutis publicæ quam suæ studiosior  
 ad rem militarem exercendam se contulit  
 obsessis Venloâ Ruremonde Cæsaris insula  
 quæ fortiter sub duce Marlburgense tentavit feliciter perfecit  
 quorum tamen oblivionem maluit quam gloriam  
 obiit calend Mart VIII æræ Christianæ MDCCIV  
 ætatis XXVI  
 Monumentum hoc posuit mœrens soror  
 prænobilis domina Elizabetha Hastings.

Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, son, by a second marriage, of Theophilus the seventh Earl, was born November 12, 1696, and succeeded on the decease of his half brother George, the eighth Earl, to the title and estates. At the Coronation of his Majesty George the Second, he carried the Sword of State, an honour now considered established as a prescriptive and hereditary right in this noble family. On the 3d of June, the following year, his Lordship married the Lady Selina Shirley, second daughter, and one of the co-heirs, of Washington, Earl Ferrars, and by her had issue four sons: Francis, tenth Earl, George, Ferdinando, and Henry; and three daughters, Elizabeth, Selina, who died an infant, and another Selina, who was one of the six Earls' daughters, that assisted the Princess Augusta in supporting Queen Charlotte's train at the Coro-

nation, and died May the 12th, 1763, on the eve of her marriage with Colonel George Hastings, father of the present Earl. Of the younger sons, George and Ferdinando, both died of the small pox at the ages of eleven and thirteen respectively, and Henry also died in September 1758, at the early age of nineteen years.

Lady Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, on the 26th of February, 1752, was married, being his third wife, to John Lord Rawdon, afterwards created Earl of Moira, and by him, who died in the year 1793, had issue six sons, the eldest, and now only surviving, of whom, Francis, born December 7th, 1753, is the present Marquis of Hastings, and Governor-General of India ; besides five daughters, two of whom died young, one was married to the Earl of Aylesbury, and another to the Earl of Granard. In Lady Moira's character were combined the bounty and beneficence suitable to her noble birth and elevated rank in society, with all the tender traits of humanity, and the amiable graces of her sex. To strong natural powers of understanding, she added a refined taste, formed upon the best principles, and cultivated in an eminent degree. After the death of her brother, Francis, the tenth Earl, and the consequent abeyance into which the title was suffered to fall, her Ladyship, then the only remaining representative of the family, being the last direct descendant of that line, with a sense of impartial justice, and a disinterested spirit of inquiry, every way honourable to her, exerted her best endeavours to trace out and rectify the neglected and confused pedigree of the collateral branches, in order to ascertain the rightful inheritors of the Earldom. The result of her inquiries was completely correct and satisfactory on the point, as will be seen by her valuable letter on the subject to her kinsman, Archdeacon Hastings, which we shall hereafter find occasion to introduce. Indeed, notwithstanding the strange turn which affairs had taken in favour of her son, it was

well known she always lamented the interruption in the succession as most unjust and cruel, and regretted her inability to assist in bringing forward the claim of the recently restored branch, of whose undoubted right she was fully and conscientiously aware. From her benevolent heart and bounteous spirit, want ever found relief, adversity consolation, and distressed and unfriended talents, protection. Under this last point of view, her Ladyship's patronage of the unfortunate Dermody deserves particular mention, as exhibiting her character in a truly amiable light. To him, from the moment he was recommended to her notice, till the period when his preposterous conduct forced her to withdraw her countenance and support, she was not only a liberal and indulgent patroness, but, as his agreeable biographer justly remarks, \* "a noble, enlightened, and affectionate friend." By her express desire and direction he was placed under the care of Mr. Boyd, of Killeagh, favourably known to the public as the spirited translator of Dante; and she furnished him, at her own expense, with every necessary for prosecuting his classical studies. Here her Ladyship heaped increasing favours on him, and marked his successful, and then highly promising, progress, with solicitude scarce less than maternal. She became generously and intimately interested in the future fate of her adopted minstrel, and even honoured him with her correspondence and salutary counsel, during the two years he remained with his learned and benevolent instructor, while at the same time, she was secretly paving the way to his advancement. That this untoward child of misfortune and the Muse should, by his subsequent folly and indiscretion, have forfeited the friendship of so good a benefactress, and so rational an adviser, is matter of humiliation, and of regret, when we recollect the scan-

\* See Raymond's Life of Dermody.



dalous career and melancholy end, to which such conduct was a proper prelude. But as he himself says, in vain exculpation of the excesses into which genius is apt too often to fall,

“ By what strange fate great talents are allied  
To greatest faults, whose judgment shall decide ?”

The following letters, selected from her Ladyship's correspondence with Dermody, and the added specimens of the gratitude which, after all, he seems to have sincerely felt towards his patroness, tend so impressively to illustrate the worth and goodness of her heart, as well as her solid sense, that it would be injustice to her memory not to insert them here.

“ To Mr. Thomas Dermody, at the Rev. Mr. Boyd's, Killeigh.

“ Moira House, January 21, 1791.

“ In answer to your inquiries, Dermody, respecting your being placed in England, I have to inform you that Lieutenant-Colonel Barry, who out of friendship to me has agreed to take the trouble of settling that point, has been and is still delayed in Ireland ; and till he has returned to England, no decisive time can be named. This to you is rather advantageous than otherwise. Your leisure for study must be considerably abridged when your time becomes the property of a master, whose right it will be to employ it as suits his pleasure and utility. You are now at that period of life when memory is most retentive ; and you ought to employ the small remaining portion of that time which you can call your own, in application to study, and the forming your mind. From Mr. Boyd's instructions you have the fullest opportunity to acquire that classic knowledge which is the solid foundation for every other science, and from his precepts and example you will learn the duty and respectability of

moral virtue. You will be inclined, I know, to tell me that you are thoroughly versed in all manner of knowledge. At your age one is apt to mistake, and to appreciate our own talents and acquisitions much too highly : experience and subsequent information alone teach one how difficult, or rather laborious, it is for the greatest genius to gain extensive knowledge ; and therefore humility is generally found to be an attendant on great minds. I allow you considerable facility in rhyming : nature has bestowed upon you that particular branch of ability. But if your rhymes convey not great, noble, just, and striking sentiments ; or do not flow embellished by picturesque ideas, or adorned by elegance of style ; your reputation as a poet will never rise above mediocrity. Be not misled by the fanciful caprice of a short period : you would not have met that flattering share of applause in England, where criticism is more rigid in its scrutiny, and unsparing in its censure. Apply yourself to the close study of elegant authors, applauded for their respective excellencies, to form your taste and style ; and lose not the few weeks you have to command, in negligence and inattention.

“ I expect Mr. Berwick over in a short time, and shall get him to inform you of what may hereafter concern you. I thank you for the verses ; as being gratefully intended, though the subject did not merit the trouble. Tributes of that kind however, be assured, have not the slightest weight to add to the wish I have to be serviceable to you ; which, having hitherto shown it to be my inclination, will be continued as long as you act with integrity. “ E. M. H.”

“ To Mr. Thomas Dermody, at the Rev. Mr. Boyd’s, Killeigh.

“ Lady Moira informs Thomas Dermody, that Mr. Berwick (who is in the country) has transmitted to her a letter which Der-

mody had written to him, and that she has also received that which Dermody has written to her; both letters intimating his desire and design to withdraw himself from Lady Moira's direction, and consequent protection. Lady Moira makes not the least objection to that determination; and has inclosed to Mr. Boyd ten guineas, that he may enter upon his future schemes, and follow his own pursuits, not totally in a destitute condition.

"Lady Moira had hoped that from his residence with the Reverend Mr. Boyd, he would not only have acquired literary information, but also in the course of two years, from the influence of mature reason, have attained to the prudent reflection of how incumbent it was for him to practise an exact conduct, to efface the prejudices his former behaviour had impressed. What attainments he has made in literature, it is not in her power to decide: she is persuaded that it could only arise from his own negligence, if he has not profited from Mr. Boyd's instructions. That he has not received any benefit from reflection, the style of impropriety which runs through his letters plainly evinces. Lady Moira warns him, that the waywardness of his nature, and the ill-founded degree of self-conceit he indulges himself in respecting his genius, will prevent his ever having friends, or arriving at success, through the course of his future life, unless he alters his conduct and his sentiments.

"As Dermody has thought proper to withdraw himself from her direction and protection in a manner equally ungracious and absurd, Lady Moira informs him that the donation which accompanies this note is the last attention or favour that he is ever to expect from Lady Moira, or any of her family.

"Moira House, Nov. 10, 1791."

## ODE

*To the Right Honourable Elizabeth, Countess of Moira, Baroness Hastings, &c.*

SAY, what high skill awakes the golden lyre?  
 For music more than mortal flows  
 From yon fresh arbour's deep repose;  
 Mild'ning the air, it floats along,  
 Lo! saintly forms, a radiant throng,  
 Descend well pleas'd to join the warbling choir,  
 To lift the tow'ring soul, and fan Religion's fire!

'Tis gratitude attunes the string,  
 Nymph of the sparkling eye and throbbing breast;  
 While heavenly squadrons furl the wing,  
 And consecrate her holy rest.

An amaranthine wreath she weaves,  
 To deck some princely fav'rite's brow;  
 The flow'rs beneath her finger blow,  
 And Friendship sweet the toil deceives.  
 Meanwhile Affection's fervent prayer  
 Hallows each leaf, and makes the meed more fair.

'Twas Gratitude, the minstrel's pride,  
 That erst o'er Sydney's mournful hearse  
 Strew'd the immortal palms of verse,  
 And told the world her patron died.  
 She prompted Dryden's hand profuse,  
 To sprinkle pure Castalian dew  
 O'er Hastings' tomb, and mock the dire disease.\*  
 She too in Akenside's majestic lay †  
 Did the true glories of thy race display,  
 With classic elegance and Attic ease.  
 If I, the humblest of the tuneful train,  
 May unprov'd combine with these,  
 O goddess! let me add my uncouth strain:  
 Though rude it be, and void of varnish'd art,  
 From a fond breast it flows, and from a feeling heart.

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\* Dryden's Elegy on Lord Hastings, who died of the small pox.

† Akenside's Ode to the Earl of Huntingdon.

'Tis not the regal honours of thy line,  
 Nor all the gallant deeds that shine  
 In Fame's long list of thy heroic sires,  
 The muse of nobler aim admires :  
 But Bounty's ray, diffusing wide  
   Its genial influence, claims the poet's praise ;  
   A tender heart, a love to raise  
 Dejected merit from Oblivion's cell,  
   Claim the best tribute of immortal lays :  
 And virtues such as those shall ever swell  
 Futurity's record, and MOIRA's goodness tell.

When fashion turn'd the sated eye  
   With sullen lip, from my ill-fated page ;  
 When Party's ruffian-rage grew high,  
   And fiercely threatened to engage  
   My sinking bark ; then didst thou come,  
 Like some meek angel from the sky :  
   Thy brightness chas'd the gathering gloom ;  
 Thy presence aw'd the rude tumultuous crew,  
 And Malice to her cave infernal flew.

Blest Patroness, how shall I pay  
 So large a debt? For poor the lay  
 Which Milton heard, entranc'd in nightly dream,  
 To thy compassion's dazzling beam.  
 Thy guardian care, thy sympathetic sense,  
 Can find in heav'n alone an equal recompence.

*To the Right Honourable the Countess of Moira.*

DEEM'ST thou ingrate or dead the shepherd boy,  
   Erewhile who sung thee to the list'ning plain ?  
 Still pausing on thy deeds with pensive joy,  
   Ingratitude nor death has hush'd the strain.  
 Still drest in all her captivating hues,  
   Smiling in tears, will languishingly steal  
 O'er my fantastic dream, the well-lov'd muse,  
   Like morn dim-blushing through its dewy veil.

Her wild flow'rs, bound into a simple wreath,  
Meekly she proffers to thy partial sight :  
Oh, softly on their tender foliage breathe !  
Oh, save them from the critic's cruel blight !  
Nurse the unfolding blooms with care benign,  
And 'mid them weave one laurel leaf of thine.

Her Ladyship died in April, 1808, at Moira House, Dublin, at the advanced age of seventy-six years, and her remains were interred, with due solemnity, in the family vault in that city. An Irish periodical work,\* of that time, gives the following animated sketch of her Ladyship's character, as felt and appreciated in that, her adopted, country, where public spirit and liberal sentiments among the higher ranks, never fail to command the gratitude and veneration of a warm-hearted people.

“ This Lady, whose demise is announced in the list of deaths for the present month, was uncommonly gifted with great powers of memory, great quickness of intellect, and a peculiar easy, yet splendid elocution, with which she adorned whatever subject she touched upon, whether the mere passing events of the day, the various topics of literature, or those useful arts by which the community is benefited, and the resources of a nation enlarged. Her acquaintance with such branches of knowledge was by no means limited or superficial ; on the contrary, some learned societies have borne respectful testimony to her acquirements in this particular, and the real utility which flowed from the productions of her active and discerning genius.

“ She was married to the late Earl of Moira in February, 1752, and resided in Dublin, or the North of Ireland (with the exception of one year's absence in France), for more than half a century ; for

\* See the *Hibernian Magazine* for May, 1808.

the long period of fifty-six years. Let those who remember what Moira House was in the earlier days of that period, when she led, and reflected a grace upon, every beneficial fashion; when she cultivated the fine arts; when she rendered her house the favourite spot where every person of genius or talents in Dublin, or who visited Dublin, loved most to resort to; let such persons say, whether Moira House, and its illustrious Lady, as well as its truly noble and beneficent Lord, deserve not every panegyric which gratitude can bestow. She was the last in a direct line of the great name of Hastings—the last! a word, when so applied, every liberal nature will dwell upon with melancholy sensations, even to enthusiasm. Such are, perhaps, the universal feelings of mankind, in favour of exalted birth, which a vain-glorious philosophy never can eradicate, that when a race of nobility, distinguished by the length of years during which they wore their honours uninterrupted, is finally terminated, the extinction of such a family is regarded not without a generous sympathy; but when the tomb closes on a noble matron, the representative of a great house, with whose history the best, and perhaps the most inspiring images of our earliest days are associated, and herself not inferior to any in that history, it is scarcely possible, even for a stranger, not to hang over that tomb without every emotion of sorrow, regret, and veneration. Such sentiments may ill accord with a frivolous, and, in some respects, a selfish age. Be it so—yet this age, even under the influence of a more than iron war, and much bigotry, has not lost ‘all its original brightness,’ but retains much of its good old virtues undiminished. It possesses domestic charity at least; and those who know how to appreciate charity, will learn to venerate the memory of the Countess of Moira, for in truth she may be said to have been charity itself.

“ She had a strong resemblance, in many respects, to her an-

cestors: a lofty spirit, magnificence of disposition, untired hospitality—altogether she was a lady of other times; and when she mingled with society, more than her increased infirmities would of late years allow, few persons ever beheld her without something of more heroic days passing in indistinct, yet splendid array before the imagination. In the reception of persons of the first distinction at her house, there was an air, a dignity, which will hardly be equalled, and never can be surpassed. But the noble manner, the imposing ceremonial of life, leave but slight vestiges for remembrance, compared to those intrinsic and domestic virtues, which give to the female sex their truest ornament. In all the private relations of life, she was, to the utmost, valuable! Her maternal duties she fulfilled with the enlightened spirit, and more, perhaps, than the sensibility, of a Cornelia. They could only be equalled by the unceasing assiduities, the soothing tenderness, the sweet, pious, and filial regards which accompanied her to her last hour—but sorrow is sacred, and the writer forbears.—He can only add, that this imperfect tribute is the product of an hasty, anxious moment, the effusion of gratitude, resting indeed upon the basis of truth, but no exact delineation of Lady Moira's character. The style is warm, for it flows from the heart; and who that knew her could write of Lady Moira in a style inert and grovelling?

“Ireland will long have cause to regret her—she cultivated its best interests—to the gentry she displayed an example of attachment to the country which they might have well imitated; to the peasantry, of all descriptions, she was a guardian friend; to every illiberal, party distinction, whether arising from a false zeal for the state or religion, she was an unprejudiced, enlightened opponent. From the contemplation of such a character it is indeed not easy to withdraw.”



His Lordship died of a fit of apoplexy at his house in Downing-street, Westminster, October 13, 1746, in his 50th year, and was interred at Ashby de la Zouch, where a monument was erected to his memory, bearing the following inscription, from the eloquent and masterly pen of Lord Bolingbroke:

Here lie the remains  
of  
The Right Honourable Theophilus Earl of Huntingdon,  
Lord Hastings, Hungerford, Botreaux, Moels, Newark, and  
Molins.  
If his birth deserved respect,  
His life deserved it more.  
If he derived his title from a long roll  
Of illustrious ancestors,  
He reflected back on them  
Superior honours.  
He ennobled nobility  
By virtue:  
He was of the first rank in both:  
Good in every relation  
Of natural duty and of social life.  
The learning he acquired at school,  
He improved at Oxford,  
Under the care of that excellent person,  
The present Bishop of Gloucester.\*  
Acquainted by his studies  
With the characters of past ages,  
He acquired by his travels  
A knowledge of the men and manners of his own.  
He visited France, Italy, and even Spain.  
After these excursions into other countries,  
He settled in his own.  
His own was dear to him.  
No man had juster notions  
Of the true constitution of her government:  
No man had a more comprehensive view of her real interests,  
Domestic and foreign.

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\* Dr. Martin Benson.

Capable of excelling in every form of public life,  
 He chose to appear in none.  
 His mind fraught with knowledge,  
 His heart elevated with sentiments of unaffected patriotism,  
 He looked down from higher ground  
 On the low level of a futile and corrupt generation.  
 Despairing to do national good,  
 He mingled as little as his rank permitted  
 In national affairs.  
 Home is the refuge of a wise man's life;  
 Home was the refuge of his.  
 By his marriage with the Lady Selina Shirley,  
 Second daughter and one of the co-heirs  
 Of Washington, Earl Ferrers,  
 He secured to himself, in retreat,  
 A scene of happiness he could not have found in the world,  
 The uninterrupted joys of conjugal love,  
 The never-failing comforts of cordial friendship.  
 Every care was softened,  
 Every satisfaction heightened,  
 Every hour passed smoothly away,  
 In the company of one,  
 Who enjoyed a perpetual serenity of soul,  
 That none can feel in this life but those  
 Who are prepared for greater bliss  
 In the next.  
 By her this monument is erected,  
 To record the virtues of the deceased,  
 And the grief of the living.  
 He was born November 12, 1696,  
 And married the said Lady, June 3, 1728;  
 By her he had four sons and three daughters;  
 Francis, the present Earl, born March 13, 1729;  
 George, born March 29, 1730,  
 Who died of the small-pox, aged 14;  
 Ferdinando, born January 23, 1732,  
 Who also died of the small-pox, aged 11;  
 Henry, now living, born December 12, 1739;  
 Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, born March 23, 1731;  
 Selina, born June 1735, who died an infant;  
 Selina, the third daughter, born December 3, 1737.

The said Earl  
Died of a fit of apoplexy,  
October 13, 1746, in the 50th year of his age.

To this monumental tribute, prepared by friendship and genius, and offered by the hands of conjugal love at the shrine of departed virtue, we will, in conclusion, add the following character of his Lordship, published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of December, 1746, on the occasion of mentioning his death.

“ On Monday, October 13, in the morning, died the Right Honourable Theophilus Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Hastings, Hungerford, Botreaux, Moels, Newmarck, and Molins,—greatly and justly lamented, if the tender tribute was due to him, who, in every relation, acted up to the strictest principles of honour and virtue. Never was there a better father, a kinder brother, a more tender husband, or a more indulgent master. Some part of his younger years he gave to Italy and France, and at last finished his travels with a tour, which few of our nobility, of late years, have had the courage to make, through Spain. He carried with him abroad, a good stock of learning, and brought it back again improved with a thorough knowledge of men and manners. There, too, he acquired a great degree of perfection in the best modern languages; the classic authors he read in their own original dress, and upon this true model, formed a taste as elegant, and a judgment as sound, as perhaps any man in Europe. He was thoroughly acquainted with the history and constitution of his own country; and would his modesty and love of retirement have permitted him to engage in the bustling, busy, world, none would have appeared, either in the senate or cabinet, with more wisdom or with more fortitude. His birth, eminent as it was, reflected much less honour upon his abilities, than his abilities did upon his birth;

for his natural and acquired talents were such as might have raised him to the highest rank of men, had fortune at first placed him in the lowest.—Would he but have appeared, he must have appeared well; for his superior sense had secured him from a silly action, and his steady virtue from a vile one.”

The venerable Lady Selina survived her husband, Earl Theophilus, nearly forty-five years, during which long period of widowhood, she zealously devoted her time and fortune to the promotion and establishment of a peculiar class of Dissenters, not materially differing in doctrine, we believe, from those called Methodists. For this purpose she purchased, or erected at her own expense, several chapels in London and different parts of the kingdom; established a seminary in Brecknockshire, Wales, for the education of proper ministers; and expended, it is stated, upwards of 100,000*l.* in a variety of ways connected with her favourite object. So great was her religious zeal, that she sold even her jewels to enable her to meet all the demands in which this project involved her. Whatever diversity of opinion may be supposed to prevail relative to the different sects into which Christianity is subdivided, we believe there can be but one concerning her Ladyship's principles and intentions, which were conscientious, pious, and philanthropic in an eminent degree. In 1758, an order was made for the Attorney-General to shew cause, why the Sheriff should not pay to the Countess of Huntingdon, as relict and administratrix of Theophilus, the late Earl, twenty-four years of creation money due in the counties of Cambridge and Huntingdon. Lady Selina died June 17, 1791, in her eighty-fourth year. A fine bust of her by Kent, had been placed on the tomb of her late husband at Ashby, shortly after his death, and by her will she directed her own remains, dressed in the same suit of white silk, and head-dress, which she wore at the opening of a Chapel in Goodman's

Fields, to be deposited there in as plain a manner as possible, the coffin to be covered with black cloth, and the officiating clergyman, Mr. Jones, of the Spa-fields Chapel, to receive 10*l.* for his trouble. Her very numerous religious concerns in Great Britain and Ireland, were left in the hands of trustees appointed in both parts of the United Kingdom, to manage and apply them conformably to her instructions and the original objects of their institution. She left an annuity of 100*l.* to Lady Anne Erskine, and 4,000*l.* to be disposed of in charitable gifts, at the discretion of the Earl of Dartmouth, Sir Richard Hill, the Honourable Thomas Erskine, and her own Chaplain, Mr. Harris. The residue of her property she bequeathed for the support of sixty-four Chapels, which she herself had established in various parts of the kingdom, thus leaving no legacy to any of her own immediate relatives, from whom the peculiarity of her religious opinions had tended, towards the latter part of her life, a good deal to estrange her.

## CHAPTER XII.

OF FRANCIS, TENTH EARL OF HUNTINGDON.

**F**RANCIS, tenth Earl of Huntingdon, the twenty-third in paternal descent from Robert de Hastings, the first person noticed in the family pedigree, was born March 29, 1728, and succeeded to the title on the decease of his father, Theophilus, the ninth Earl. Endowed with excellent natural abilities, developed and improved by the best education, his Lordship set out, in August, 1747, to give a finish to both by travel in foreign countries. Having completed the usual tour of France and Italy, and matured his taste and judgment by observation and experience, he returned home, and sat in Parliament for the first time, on the 15th of November, 1753. In 1756, he was appointed Master of the Horse to the present King (George the Third), then Prince of Wales, who, succeeding to the crown in October, 1760, continued his Lordship in that office ; and, in December following, nominated him one of the Privy Council. At his Majesty's Coronation he carried the sword of state ; and when the Earl of Bute was appointed Secretary of State, he succeeded that nobleman as Groom of the Stole. He next year took the proper oaths as Lord Lieutenant, and Custos Rotulorum, of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and of the city and county of York. At the baptism of Prince Frederick, the present Duke of York, on the 14th of September, 1763, his Lordship stood proxy for the then Duke of York, the late King's brother, one of the sponsors. In 1770, he re-

signed his situation of Groom of the Stole. He was enrolled among the members of the Royal Society ; and to him Akenside the poet, about the time of his Lordship's first departure for the Continent, addressed one of his Odes, which, notwithstanding the sweeping censure of the arch-critic Dr. Johnson, must rank among the finest modern effusions of the lyric muse. From this spirited poem we cannot refuse ourselves the pleasure of selecting a few stanzas, which bear more immediately on the character before us.

*" To the Right Honourable Francis Earl of Huntingdon, 1747.*

" THE wise and great of every clime,  
Through all the spacious walks of time,  
Where'er the Muse her power displayed,  
With joy have listened and obeyed ;  
For, taught of Heaven, the sacred Nine  
Persuasive numbers, forms divine,  
To mortal sense impart :  
They best the soul to glory fire,  
They noblest counsels, boldest deeds inspire,  
And high o'er Fortune's rage inthroned the fixed heart.

" Nor less prevailing is their charm,  
The vengeful bosom to disarm,  
To melt the proud with human woe,  
And prompt unwilling tears to flow.  
Can wealth a power like this afford ?  
Can Cromwell's arts, or Marlborough's sword,  
An equal empire claim ?  
No, Hastings ! thou my words wilt own ;  
Thy breast the gifts of every muse hath known,  
Nor shall the giver's love disgrace thy noble name.

" The Muse's awful art,  
And the blest function of the poet's tongue,  
Ne'er shalt thou blush to honour, to assert,  
From all that scorned vice or slavish fear hath sung.  
Nor shall the blandishment of Tuscan strings,  
Warbling at will in Pleasure's myrtle bower,

Nor shall the servile notes to Celtic kings,  
 By flattering minstrels paid in evil hour,  
 Move thee to spurn the heavenly muse's reign :  
 A different strain,  
 And other themes,  
 From her prophetic shades and hallowed streams  
 (Thou well canst witness) meet the purged ear,  
 Such as when Greece to her immortal shell  
 Rejoicing listened godlike sounds to hear,  
 To hear the sweet instructress tell  
 (While men and heroes throng'd around)  
 How life its noblest use may find,  
 How well for freedom be resign'd,  
 And how by glory virtue shall be crown'd.

\* \* \* \* \*

" O Hastings ! not to all  
 Can ruling Heaven the same endowments lend ;  
 Yet still doth nature to her offspring call,  
 That to one general weal their different powers they bend  
 Unenvious. Thus alone, though strains divine  
 Inform the bosom of the muse's son,  
 Though with new honours the Patrician's line  
 Advance from age to age, yet thus alone  
 They win the suffrage of impartial fame.  
 The poet's name  
 He best shall prove,  
 Whose lays the soul to noblest passions move :  
 But thee, O progeny of heroes old !  
 Thee to severer toils thy fate requires ;  
 The fate which formed thee in a chosen mould,  
 The grateful country of thy sires,  
 Thee to sublimer paths demand,  
 Sublimer than thy sires could trace,  
 Or thine own Edward\* teach his race,  
 Though Gaul's proud genius satk beneath his hand.

" From rich domains and subject farms  
 They led the rustic youth to arms,  
 And kings their stern achievements fear'd,  
 While private strife their banners rear'd ;

---

\* Alluding to his Lordship's royal descent from King Edward the Third.



But loftier scenes to thee are shown,  
 Where empire's wide established throne  
 No private master fills;  
 Where long foretold the people reigns,  
 Where each a vassal's humble heart disdains,  
 And judgeth what he sees, and as he judgeth wills.

" Here be it thine to calm and guide  
 The swelling democratic tide,  
 To watch the state's uncertain frame,  
 And baffle faction's partial aim;  
 But chiefly with determined zeal  
 To quell that servile band, who kneel  
 To Freedom's banished foes,—  
 That monster which is daily found  
 Expert and bold thy country's peace to wound,  
 Yet dreads to handle arms, nor manly counsel knows.

\* \* \*

" Yet, Hastings! these are they  
 Who challenge to themselves thy country's love;  
 The true, the constant, who alone can weigh  
 What glory should demand, or liberty approve!  
 But let their works declare them. Thy free powers,  
 The generous powers of thy prevailing mind,  
 Not for the tasks of their confederate hours,  
 Lewd brawls and lurking slander, were design'd.  
 Be thou thy own approver. Honest praise  
 Oft nobly sways  
 Ingenuous youth;  
 But, sought from cowards and the lying mouth,  
 Praise is reproach. Eternal God alone  
 For mortals fixeth that sublime award:  
 He from the faithful records of his throne  
 Bids the historian and the bard  
 Dispose of honour and of scorn,  
 Discern the patriot from the slave,  
 And write the good, the wise, the brave,  
 For lessons to the multitude unborn."

Ode xviii. book i.

About the beginning of the year 1789, the Earl settled 2000*l.* a-year, arising out of lands in Pockington and Ashby, on his natural son Sir Charles Hastings, who was Colonel of the 34th Regiment, and attained the rank of Major-General in the army, on the marriage of that gentleman to Parnel, only daughter and heiress of Thomas Abney, Esq. of Wellesley Hall, Derbyshire, son and heir of Sir Thomas Abney, a Judge of the Common Pleas. On the 2d of October following, his Lordship, who never was married, departed this life suddenly, while sitting at table, at the house of his nephew, the present Marquis of Hastings, in his sixty-first year. His remains were interred with great funeral magnificence in the family vault at Ashby de la Zouch, the Marquis attending as chief mourner. “He was a man,” says one of the most respectable periodical works of that time, “whose virtues would reflect honour on his ancestors, had they been, if possible, more noble than they were. Those virtues were not, it is true, of the most shining nature : they were more useful than dazzling ; they were the virtues of society, and had taken up their residence in a heart which was a credit to human nature.”

His Lordship died possessed of very extensive properties in the counties of Leicester and Derby ; all of which, together with all his other lands, tenements, rents, and advowsons, he left by his will, to his nephew, Lord Rawdon, now Marquis of Hastings, for the term of his natural life, and afterwards to the heirs male of his body, charged with the payment of certain specified annuities, viz. 400*l.* a-year to the Countess of Moira, 200*l.* a-year to the Honourable John Rawdon, and 200*l.* a-year to Mrs. Bailey, wife of Captain Thomas Bailey, besides the sums of 1,200*l.* to the latter, of 1,000*l.* to Sir Henry Heron, Bart. 1,000*l.* to Colonel George Hastings, father of Hans Francis, the eleventh and present Earl, and several smaller legacies to servants, &c. By his death the Baronies of Hastings, Hun-

gerford, Peverel, Botreaux, Moels, Molines, Newmarch, and De Hunch, devolved upon his eldest sister, Elizabeth, Lady Moira, and at her decease upon the Marquis of Hastings, who obtained licence, on the 9th of February, 1790, to assume the name and arms of Hastings, as provided in the Earl's will.

The annexed letters, addressed by Earl Francis, during a second visit to the Continent, to Colonel George Hastings, father of the present Earl, will not be deemed uninteresting, or irrelevant, in this place.

“ Bologna, December 5, 1772.

“ It is so long, my dear Hastings, since I received any letters from England of any kind, that I cannot account for the accidents that must have retarded them. I have been returned to Bologna, through which place I passed on my way to Mantua (the beginning of October), above three weeks, and I intend staying here till towards the spring. I have a very good house, and every thing very comfortable about me. Your friend, Sir Harry, is very well, and understands both French and Italian most critically well, but is a man of fewer words in either than in English. I despair of his becoming a chatterer in a foreign language, unless he should fall in love, but he seems too hardened a sinner for such a folly. We met with a great number of English at Florence, but they all go to Naples for the winter. Naples is now the favourite town with all travellers, and the English are particularly caressed there. Many, indeed, carry home with them marks of Neapolitan caresses. The Duchess of Beaufort, Lady Carlisle, and Mrs. Pitt, and a thousand more, will pass their winter with Sir William Hamilton, who is not yet gone by this place. I long to see my old friend after so many years' separation. He has acquired so much wealth and honour by

his trip, that I expect to find him a very happy man. I am very much obliged to the Duchess of Cumberland for her polite mention of me; and am happy to give those frequent testimonies in favour of her understanding and conduct that my inclination dictates, and that the peculiarity of her situation enables me continually to do. Truth is her best panegyrist, and I am called upon to tell it. Let me know what folks say at home of my slow progress in Italy. I guess they blame me, but in the mean time I amuse myself. You know, my dear Hastings, I foresaw the length of my stay abroad from the perpetual engagements I should meet with in different places. How does Lord Rawdon do? I have not heard from him these four or five months! Let me know every particular about him when you see him. I think he will make an honourable figure; for a shining one I would not much wish it, for it is not always a happy one. I am glad he intends to apply to his profession. As I missed the object my ambition wanted for him, he must endeavour to merit approbation in the walk he is now in. I have advised Lady Moira to change John's situation, as he should now be more in the world. We have agreed on the plan, which she will execute. Is he improved? Is he more manly? What are his defects? My dear George is too young for you to guess at his character; but I should be glad to hear he is healthy. I desire you never to forget making my best compliments to the Wymondesors whenever you see them. Mrs. Hodges and Mrs. Hastings have always my good wishes, and I beg you to make my compliments to Mr. Hodges, and my best respects acceptable to young Mrs. Hodges. Adieu, my dear Hastings; send me word what you hear of me, and believe me unalterably your obliged and affectionate friend and servant,

“HUNTINGDON.”

“ Naples, May 17, 1774.

“ I received your letter, my dear Hastings, last post, and having wrote to you twice since I heard from you, shall make no answer to your reproaches. Lord Rawdon says, his father has money ready for a captain's commission for him. If he fails, I will supply the money, therefore pursue your intentions of purchasing for him at any price. Mr. Rawdon, having profited by being abroad as much as can be expected at his age, is gone to Gibraltar, whence, after two months stay, in order to learn his trade, he will proceed to Ireland to join his regiment, and be under the eye of his father and mother. Charles wants me to purchase for him into the light horse, and I have written to Lord Barrington and Lord Harcourt to request their favour towards him. I should like England best, because he will be near me. I am most excessively satisfied with him, and he with me. Try what you can do for him. I wait a letter from General Conway to engage his interest, whenever I write my answer. Colonel Phillips was very civil to him at Gibraltar, and is a friend of Hervey's. Remember me affectionately to General Clinton. If I was indiscreet in writing to Lord B. and the General, it was the eagerness of my young soldiers which led me into the fault. Adieu; it is post day, I have many letters to write, and am engaged out to a great dinner. Quære, my dear Hastings, whether it may not be as well to defer trying this purchase till Lord Rawdon returns home? *He should make the tour of Germany*, and he may get a captain's commission for the usual price before he returns. If he does not, it will then be a good time to go to Gibraltar, after having seen a little of the military in Germany. Adieu. Do what is best; but my second thoughts appear so to me.

“ Yours affectionately,

“ HUNTINGDON.

“ Let Lord Barrington know that Mr. Rawdon has joined his regiment ; and put me in a way to get leave for Charles to make the tour of Germany with me, whether he succeeds in purchasing into the light horse or not. The pretence of his seeing the Austrian and German troops will not be unserviceable. If the war continues, Lord Rawdon has a mind to serve next campaign against the Turks, and Charles may accompany him. Do not mention to any body my second thoughts with regard to Lord Rawdon’s commission. I would have him impute the not succeeding to the difficulty of obtaining leave to sell.

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“ Naples, October 19, 1774.

“ I wrote to you, my dear Hastings, about a week ago, and I hope the contents of my letter were satisfactory to you. As I flatter myself Lord Rawdon is now able to reap advantage from every situation in the great world, I intend he shall pass the winter at Vienna, and that without the company of a governor. I shall therefore set him on his journey, and continue mine to England, where I hope to be by Christmas.

“ Adieu, my dear George.

“ Believe me yours affectionately,

“ HUNTINGDON.”

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“ SIR,

“ St. James’s Place, April 1, 1778.

“ I see you were entirely uninformed of the further orders given for stopping the troops going to America ; so that your honour is quite safe on that score. Lord Amherst assures me that the King will not forget my request in favour of Lord Rawdon ; and advises

me, on account of the multiplicity of business, to wait the King's time without renewing my application. Mr. Hastings sets out soon for Gibraltar.

“ Yours, most sincerely,

“ HUNTINGDON.”

“ To Lieutenant Colonel Hastings, at  
Belton, Loughborough.”

## CHAPTER XIII.

OF THE ANCESTORS OF HANS FRANCIS, ELEVENTH AND PRESENT EARL  
OF HUNTINGDON.

AFTER the death of Francis, the tenth Earl of Huntingdon, as if by common consent of all parties, as well those who endured the wrong, as those who profited by it, the title was permitted to drop into oblivion, and the fortune, destined to support its lustre, tamely suffered to be frittered, and transferred, and to devolve, away, however illegally, even in the presence, and under the very eyes, of the rightful heirs of both, without an effort, on their part, to prevent such spoliation. By this strange and culpable apathy, the family with whom the heirship rested, year after year, gradually lost sight of it, to the irreparable prejudice of their posterity, who have now succeeded to the noble inheritance, with all its honours unimpaired it is true, but almost wholly shorn of the revenues which belonged to it, and which are so indispensable to the true maintenance of its dignity.\* To the character of the late Earl we have willingly given every advantage of contemporary praise; but justice here compels us to visit upon his memory all the odium of having deliberately alienated, as far as in him lay, the possessions which were attached to, and should descend with, the title of his ancestors; and this under no palliating ignorance, that the Earldom should

\* Sir William Temple, with great justice I think, considers our constitution as defective, that there is not an unalienable estate in land connected with a peerage.



become extinct at his death, but with the full consciousness on his mind, that the succession belonged to the family of Theophilus and George, his kinsmen and intimate friends, and must one day devolve upon them, or their issue. "The claims of this branch," says the invaluable letter of the Countess of Moira, hereafter inserted, "were acknowledged by my father, and all my family, and the proofs were delivered to my late brother Francis, last Earl of Huntingdon."—"My aunt, Lady Anne Hastings, told me she had given the proofs to my deceased brother, and my father always assented to their having the claim of presumptive heirs." His Lordship therefore was long and fully apprised of the circumstances in which the succession stood; and under whatever influence, or partiality, or with whatever concert, he acted, truth must stamp the transaction as a deep, deliberate, and unprovoked family and personal injury, as well as a flagrant public injustice. The Reverend Theophilus Hastings, uncle to the present Earl, was, or imagined himself to be, then too old to prosecute his claim as immediate heir. His younger brother, Colonel George, who died a few years before him, during the latter part of his life was rendered unable, by mental incapacity, occasioned by a fall from his horse, to attend to any business; and though possessed of very important papers, some of which he destroyed in a temporary fit of derangement, never could take any steps to secure the inheritance to his issue. His sons, in the bustle of professional life, and honourably serving their country in foreign parts by land and sea, had little leisure for reviving the subject; or, if attention was turned that way, found themselves precluded by limited fortune from entering on so expensive a process. Thus, by negligence and inability on the one hand, and criminal artifice and interested mystery on the other, the ancient Earldom of Huntingdon had been suffered to remain in

abeyance for nearly thirty years, when it was at last claimed and obtained by Hans Francis, the eleventh and present Earl, as eldest lineal male descendant of Sir Edward Hastings, fourth son of Francis, the second Earl, to which Sir Edward, therefore, it now becomes our duty to return, in order distinctly to trace the restored line down to his Lordship, the recent successor.

This Sir Edward Hastings, then, was of the Abbey of Leicester, and fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, and younger brother of Henry and George, third and fourth Earls. He espoused Barbara, eldest daughter and coheir of Sir William Devereux, Knt. of Mireval Abbey, Warwickshire, third son of Walter, Viscount Hereford, and widow of Edward Cave, Esq. of Ingarsby, in Leicestershire; and by that lady had two sons, Henry and Walter, the latter of whom died without issue. In the records of the Court of Exchequer, we find an entry of the following rule, dated 20th of November, twenty-first of Elizabeth.

“ Whereas the Abbey of Leicester, in the county of Leicester, is seized into her Majesty’s hands for the debt of Henry, late Earl of Huntingdon, at 20*l.* per annum, and the same charged in the account of William Skipwith, Esq. now Sheriff of the said county. And whereas, this Court was informed, in Trinity term last past, by Sir Edward Hastings, Knight, tenant of the said abbey, that he purchased the said abbey of the said Earl, in the twenty-second year of her Majesty’s reign, and that all the debts of the said Earl due to her Majesty before the time of his purchase were answered; and prayed that process might be stayed, and offered to enter into bond in this court to pay the said seizure, or else procure his discharge before the end of this term, which this Court thought reasonable, and the said Edward entered into a bond accordingly: now for-

asmuch as this Court is further informed by Mr. Morgan, being of counsel with the said Sir Edward Hastings, that the said Sir Edward, by reason of extreme sickness wherewith he had been visited almost ever since, (and at this time is in great peril of death,) could not proceed in pleading his discharge, and humbly craved longer time for the same, and that no advantage should be taken by reason of his said bond, it is ordered by this Court the 20th of November, this term, that the said Sir Edward Hastings shall have day given until the next term, to procure his discharge of the said seizure; and his said bond to remain as it now doth, and no process to be made thereupon."

Sir Edward died in 1603, and was buried at Ashby de la Zouch. In the old registry book of the parish of St. Mary's, in Leicester, is preserved the annexed curious licence, granted, in 1618, to Lady Barbara, his relict, permitting her to eat flesh during Lent on account of her great age.

"Whereas a licence in the beginning of Lent was granted by me John Bonnet, minister of the parish of Saint Mary's, Leicester, to the Lady Barbara Hastings, of the Newark, next adjoining to the parish aforesaid; and another the same time to John Chippendale, Doctor of Law, of the Newark aforesaid, to license them, in respect to their great age and weak estate, to eat flesh, and those licences to endure for one week only; now because it appeareth that the necessity of their health requireth a continuance of the said licences; know, therefore, that I the said John Bonnet do license the said Lady Hastings and John Chippendale, to eat flesh at their pleasure during the whole Lent, according to a statute in that case made and provided. In witness whereof I have caused it to be registered in

the church book, under the hands of me the minister aforesaid, and one of the churchwardens, as the statute requires, the 26th of February, in the year of Christ, according to the computation of the church of England, 1618. By me

“ JOHN BONNET,

“ Minister of St. Mary's, Leicester, in Leicestershire, and Curate there.”

Sir Henry, eldest son of Sir Edward, purchased Humberston, and was knighted April 23, 1603, by King James the First, at Belvoir Castle, and obtained, by letters patent from his Majesty, in consideration of the sum of 4000*l.* paid by him and Henry Cutler, Gent. the manor of Whitwick, with the lands belonging to it, formerly the property of the Duke of Suffolk, attainted of high treason, together with Burdon Park, and all the messuages, lands, &c. in Charwood Forest, appertaining to the said manor.\*

In the year 1619 he was sheriff of Leicester. He married Mabel, daughter of Anthony Faunt, of Fauston, and by her had four sons, Henry, Walter, Richard, and Anthony; and two daughters. Walter and Richard, the second and third sons, died without issue, the former at Windsor, circa 1672; and Anthony, the fourth, who was of Windsor, married a Miss Watkinson, by whom he had a son, Henry. This Henry went to Ireland, and is ancestor of the present Dean Hastings, of Newtownbutler, in that part of the United Kingdom. Sir Henry died in 1629, as did his wife the preceding year. On her tomb is the following inscription, now almost defaced. “ Here lyeth buried the virtuous lady, and most worthy of all honour, Mabel, late wife of Sir Henry Hastings, Knight, soone of Sir Edward Hastings, soone of Francis Earl

\* See Harl. MSS. 3881. p. 69, b.

of Huntingdon. She was daughter of Anthony Faunt, of Fauston, Esq."

Henry Hastings, of Humberston, Esq. eldest son of Sir Henry Hastings, married Jane, daughter of — Goodall, of Belgrave, in Leicestershire, Esq. by whom he had issue five sons, Henry, Walter, Richard, Ferdinando, and Edward, and five daughters; and died, as appears by the registry of Humberston, at which place he was buried, about the year 1654. This gentleman, in consequence of his loyal attachment to Charles the First, suffered great persecution from the parliamentary forces, who took him prisoner and confined him at Leicester, while they kept Humberston in their hands. He was at last obliged, by losses and exactions, to sell that place, having been fined 207*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* by the sequestrators, as was also his brother Anthony for maintaining similar principles of loyalty towards his unfortunate sovereign. Of the five sons, Edward, the fifth, and Ferdinando, the fourth, died young and unmarried; Henry, the eldest, who, in the pedigree of Sir Edward Hastings, of 1681, is described as "the next male branch to the Earls of Huntingdon, after the descendants of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands," married Pentecost, daughter of Edmund Smally, of Leicester, and dying without issue, as appears by his will, appointed her his sole executrix, and bequeathed her all his real and personal estate. Walter, the second son, who was of Rempston, in Nottingham, espoused Hannah, daughter of Edmund Craddock, of Leicester, by whom he had issue two daughters, Jane and Anne, both married, and an only son Henry, who was of Castle Donnington, and died at Loughborough, in the year 1753, a bachelor; and Richard, the third son, whose issue continued the succession, was of Welford, in Northamptonshire, and, dying in 1714, left by his wife Sarah Sleath, who died in 1707, an only son Henry, to whom he bequeathed all his possessions.

This Henry Hastings, only son of Richard Hastings, of Welford, born in 1701, was left an orphan at the age of fourteen years, and the trustees appointed by his father's will dissipated a great part of his property. In 1727 he married Elizabeth, daughter of ——— Hudson, Esq. and had issue by her three sons, Theophilus Henry, George, and Ferdinando; and two daughters, one of whom Sarah was married to Thomas Needham, Esq. His death took place in 1786, many years previous to which he was best known by the name of Lord Hastings bestowed upon him through courtesy, and anticipating his near and well-known claim to the earldom. Ferdinando, the youngest son, died at Lutterworth of a decline, in his fourteenth year.

Theophilus Henry, the eldest son, was born at Lutterworth, and baptized October 7th, 1728, Theophilus, the ninth Earl, being his god-father. He was educated for the church by the Reverend Granville Wheeler, son of the famous traveller Sir George Wheeler, and husband of Lady Catherine Maria, fourth daughter of Theophilus, the seventh Earl. He was rector of Great and Little Leke, and of Osgathorpe, and Vicar of Belton. He espoused first, a Miss Pratt, who died not many months after their marriage; and, secondly, in his 70th year, Elizabeth Warner, aged 50; and died in 1804, without issue and intestate. There is a whimsical anecdote connected with this second union, which we cannot resist the temptation of relating for its singularity. While Mr. Hastings was yet young, and residing with the Earl of Huntingdon, in quality of domestic chaplain to his Lordship, he became enamoured, somewhat uncanonically, of a very pretty chambermaid, called Bessy Warner, then living in the family. The lover was assiduous and passionate, but Bess, on her part, was quite as tenacious; till, in the end, he pledged his honour, with proper solemnity, that as soon as he had got possession of the living of Great and Little Leke, he would make her his

wife, upon certain present conditions, with which, on the faith of his word, she was at last induced to comply. In the ebbs and flows of human life, and its shifting concerns, early acquaintances are soon separated, and forgotten. Thirty years had elapsed. Mr. Hastings, meantime, had lost his first wife, and gained a second living—it was that of Great and Little Leke. One day the venerable old pastor was surprised by the apparition of a strange post-chaise and four driving rapidly up the avenue to the parsonage-house. An elderly gentleman alighted from it, and Miss Warner was ushered into his reverend presence, her matron cheek covered with the blushes of memory! . After an interval of surprise and recognition, she proceeded to tell him “that she had come to claim the fulfilment of his promise; that he had long since made the acquisition of fortune, on which his obligation of performance depended; and that, on her part, she had never, by the slightest indiscretion, swerved from an engagement which she considered sacred from the first moment.” How far the old gentleman, who had travelled north of his grand climacteric, might have felt startled at so abrupt and grave a proposal, and what remonstrances he might have urged “to cry this dreadful summoner grace,” we know not; but it is certain, that, after duly satisfying himself by diligent inquiry concerning the lady’s conduct and character, which were found strictly correct and virtuous from the date of her last interview with him, the banns were formally announced in the church by himself, and the parties married accordingly. On this occasion he presented his bride with a ring bearing the inscription, “It is consummated,” in Latin, which he enjoined her to wear as long as she lived. . At the time of publishing the banns, it is further told, he mentioned the bride by the familiar name of Betsy, upon which, she being then present, stood up in the pew, and said, “her name was Elizabeth, not Betsy;” the

whole of the auditors being highly diverted by the unseasonable emendation. Such was Mr. Hastings's conscientious *amende honorable*, which cannot be viewed in any other than an amiable and creditable light ; and it were " devoutly to be wished " that all whose passions impel them to similar injuries against female innocence might be obliged to follow his example in reparation.

This gentleman was primitive in his notions and manners, and of a most hospitable temper, as was evinced, among other peculiarities, by a singular custom, punctually observed in his house, of lighting a large fire and candles, and leaving abundant refreshments in his kitchen every night, at the usual hour of the family retiring to rest, for the purpose of cheering and regaling such benighted travellers as might chance to wander that way. Some of his indigent neighbours, it is said, were in the habit, secretly or under false pretences, of imposing on the good man's generosity, and nightly making themselves merry on the plenteous board spread for so benevolent a purpose.

For some time after the late Earl's death the Reverend Mr. Hastings assumed the title of Earl of Huntingdon ; and there is a stone pillar standing in front of the Parsonage House, at Leke, on which there was a plate bearing a Latin inscription, stating him to be the eleventh Earl of Huntingdon, godson of Theophilus, the ninth Earl, and entitled to the earldom by descent.\* In fact it was notorious that he was the immediate heir. However, accustomed to pastoral duties and literary retirement, he had but little of ambition's " sterner stuff " about him ; and was, moreover, strongly averse to the scene of litigation, in which the prosecution of his claim must necessarily have involved him, in consequence of the impediment

\* This plate covered another Latin inscription, stating that it was erected by Theophilus the second Earl of Huntingdon of that name.



of Earl Francis's iniquitous will. At a more advanced period of his life, and after his second marriage, when reproved by his friends for this strange neglect and indifference respecting the earldom, he used to parry the topic by pleading his great age, which warned him rather to retire from, than to seek, honours, and by saying, that he never would make Betsy, his wife, Countess of Huntingdon.

We will conclude our account of the Reverend Theophilus Hastings with the subjoined letter written by him to his parents.

“ Dear father and mother,

Leke, August 3, 1755.

“ This is the third time I have written to you since I received yours, informing me of my brother Ferdy's death. I was not at all surprised at that event, and indeed not greatly grieved; for we were certain his sufferings were grievous in this world, but have great reason to hope he is happy in another. I think I need say no more to persuade you to moderate your grief. I was at Ashby the Sunday and Monday before Lady Anne died; there I wrote the first letter, and left it with Mrs. Ingle to be sent by Mr. Sleath. Lady Huntingdon was there at that time, and I had the honour of preaching twice before her. Her Ladyship is to dine here with Mr. Wheeler to-morrow, and sets forward on Tuesday morning for Yorkshire to visit Lady Margaret, where she proposes to stay about a fortnight. I don't know any thing of the particulars of Lady Anne's will, only that Miss Wheeler is sole executrix, and that I had the honour of being mentioned in it. Indeed it is little more than an honour, for what she has bequeathed me is of small value. It is a steel seal, with the crest of the family upon it. Mr. Wheeler came here last Wednesday from Ashby, where he has been since the funeral. How long he will stay with us I don't know. His coachman told me that Richard was to be at Lutterworth on

Thursday ; I hope it was to acquaint you that her Ladyship has not forgotten you in her will. I have only time to desire you will make yourselves easy ; my love to sister Sally, and brothers and sister at Eaton, and to subscribe myself, dear father and mother, your affectionate son,

“ T. HASTINGS.”

In his religious principles Mr. Hastings was a zealous supporter of the established faith, and a constant and animated opposer of the sect of Methodists, by which last application of his talents he incurred the severe displeasure of the Countess Dowager Selina, and probably the loss of a great part of her fortune, which might otherwise have been bequeathed to him, or his brother's family.

George Hastings, second son of Henry Hastings, of Lutterworth, Esq. was born in that town, and baptized on the 6th of June, 1735. Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, then enjoying the succession, took both George and his elder brother Theophilus Henry, at a proper age, under his immediate protection, and gave charge of their education to the Reverend Mr. Wheeler, jointly with that of his own son Lord Francis, afterwards tenth Earl. George, it appears, was in his school-days extremely wild, and of a very “ truant disposition ;” and the Earl, in order to reclaim him from his idle habits, put in practice a little stratagem well calculated to call back the scattered faculties of an aspiring young mind to their proper sphere of action. His Lordship one day took occasion, in a proper tone of severity, to inform the young offender, that if he did not in future pay more attention to his studies, he would certainly have him apprenticed to some mechanic employment, as best befitting one whose inclinations seemed so much averse to any elegant acquirement. This menace, however, produced little or no effect on the conduct of George, whose

boyish freaks, and impatience of his book, were as frequent and obvious as ever. At length Lord Huntingdon sent orders to his carpenter in the contiguous village of Donnington to attend him early the following morning, before our young gentleman, then living at Donnington Park, should have made his appearance. On the arrival of this person, his Lordship, taking him privately into his study, revealed to him the scheme he had laid to bring about the reformation of his favourite ; and the carpenter, being a man of much natural shrewdness and humour, at once entered into his employer's views. The culprit, as soon as he had got up, was summoned into their presence, and his Lordship, after much severe animadversion on the incurable misconduct of the boy, ordered him to consider himself the carpenter's apprentice, under pain of the entire forfeiture of his future friendship ; at the same time placing in the new master's hands a sum of money, which he said was a fee, and for the further purpose of providing the tyro with the necessary budget of tools. The servants in the family, with whom George's early manifestations of a most generous and forgiving temper had made him a great favourite, but who were ignorant of the secret, lamented his fate, and even dared loudly to murmur against his Lordship's injustice, threatening the carpenter with vengeance if he did not prove the kindest of masters. After breakfast, and when the proper preparations for departure were completed, an offer was made to send a carriage with the young adventurer as far as his destination ; but this he haughtily rejected, and left the park on foot, overwhelmed with shame, regret, and indignation. As they proceeded, the carpenter tried to soothe his wounded feelings, not omitting, at the same time, to reflect with due severity on the folly of the conduct which had thus driven him from the Earl's presence ; but George remained silent, though not at all sulky, the whole of the way. On enter-

ing the new abode he was kindly received by the family, and shown into a room, while the carpenter went out under pretence of procuring him a set of tools. Some time after he returned, accompanied by one of his workmen, laden with the necessary implements. These he presented, with a long dissertation on the particular uses and excellence of each, to George, who listened with much philosophic gravity, and even good humour ; after which preliminary lecture, he went out to indulge in the relaxation of an evening walk towards the centre of the town. By this time almost all the lads of the village had heard the story of his fallen fortunes, and gathered round him, tendering their condolence and services, and railing at the Earl's cruelty. George returned thanks to his juvenile friends for their kindness, and then, collecting courage, addressed them in very animated terms, and with appropriate gesture. He had frequently, he said, heard his father declare that he was a near relative of the noble Earl, next in descent to the family estates and honours, and begged to ask, was it fit that such a person so born and allied should be a *coffin-maker*? To this indignant interrogatory an unanimous and clamorous negative was the reply. " Well then, my lads," resumed the urchin orator, " come with me to that house, (pointing to the carpenter's,) and assist me to carry those vile implements to the top of the hill above the Park, and there make a fire of them ; for I'll be d—d if any Hastings of our blood shall ever stoop to drive a plane. So, come along, my lads, and we'll send for Lord Hastings to lend a hand." The tiny chieftain forthwith led his little band to the attack ; and the carpenter, unwilling to resist, or probably apprehensive of being roughly handled, quietly surrendered the offensive tools, which were borne in triumph to the place of execution, and there consumed amidst the reiterated and vociferous acclamations of this troop of young villagers. The Earl of Hunt-

ingdon, on learning this result of his scheme of reform, shed tears of pleasure, exclaiming, that George was a noble, high-spirited lad, that he would never forsake him, and that he should have a commission as soon as he would be old enough. He was immediately reinstated in his Lordship's good graces, and soon became a greater favourite than ever at Donnington Park, especially among the females of the family, who admired the surpassing beauty and manly graces of his person, as much as they were charmed with his affable elegance of manners, and unceasing good humour.

His noble and revered old patron having died, and he having completed his education with credit, his ambition was soon gratified by the appointment procured for him, through the family interest, of a Lieutenancy in the 9th Regiment of Foot; and, after an interval of seven years service, he was promoted to a Captaincy in the same corps. Before he left Donnington Park, and after that period, he was so much beloved by Lord Francis, who had succeeded to the title, that he might have been almost considered necessary to that nobleman's existence. He was his companion in all his recreations and amusements, and was entirely in his confidence, which he deserved and improved. They were mutually and inseparably attached. Every wish and intention of his Lordship was unbosomed in confidence for the advice and approval of his friend. Amidst the sunshine of such prosperity and favour, and in the constant intercourse of reciprocal regard, Captain Hastings never looked for a reverse, nor dreamed of estrangement. But a more intoxicating, and, alas! not less delusive, hope was now set before him. His merits had placed him high in the estimation of every member of the family; and the Countess Dowager, in the warmth of her friendship, wished to bind still closer, and perpetuate, those feelings of esteem, by an union between him and her youngest daughter, the amiable Lady

Selina. She took an early opportunity of consulting the Earl, her son, on the subject, who, on his part, consented with all possible alacrity ; and instant research was thereupon ordered to be made to ascertain, beyond dispute, the pedigree of the future bridegroom, and the degree of consanguinity in which he stood to this noble family. The persons employed on this occasion were a solicitor of considerable talent then residing in Castle Donnington, and Mr. Dawson, the steward, a man of the strictest principles, and of the greatest intelligence in such matters. After a most diligent and successful search, they declared it to be their opinion, that Mr. Theophilus Hastings, and after him, his younger brother Mr. George, were presumptive heirs to the title and estates, in failure of the then Earl and his issue. This news was received with enthusiasm by all the tenantry, with whom their beloved Captain was a peculiar favourite. The bells of Castle Donnington rang many a merry peal, seconded by other rejoicings, in manifestation of the pleasure and happiness which such an assurance imparted to every breast. Among the members of the family who were most actively employed in managing the preparations, and maturing the arrangements, for the nuptials, was Lady Anne Hastings, the aunt of the intended bride. She took charge of all the documents, and gave orders, with the consent of the Countess, for the immediate celebration of the marriage. The Earl promised a handsome settlement ; the preliminaries were nearly completed ; every heart beat with impatience for the accomplishment of an union so auspicious ; and hope and affection absorbed every thought of the youthful lovers. At that moment it pleased an omniscient Providence, whose dispensations we are not permitted to question, suddenly to deprive the Lady Selina of existence, on the 12th of May, 1763, to the unspeakable affliction of the

family, and the almost total deprivation of reason in her intended husband.

Captain Hastings, in the mean time, having received orders to join his regiment, tried to dissipate his melancholy amidst the bustle and occupations of a gay profession, and a gay metropolis. He soon after purchased a company in the 3d regiment of Foot Guards, and had apartments assigned to him in St. James's Palace. Here he became a particular favourite with our present venerable Sovereign, George the Third, who was pleased, in the sequel, and after the proper gradations of service, to promote him to be Lieutenant-Colonel of that fine regiment. A lapse of six years had now so far softened the shock his feelings had suffered in the loss of Lady Selina, as to leave his heart open to new impressions. He paid his addresses to Sarah, daughter of Colonel Thomas Hodges, and of his wife ———, daughter of Sir Thomas Fowler, Bart. of Radnorshire, Wales, between whom and him a mutual tenderness had been conceived. His wounded affections, however, were not to be moved by female attractions of the ordinary stamp. Miss Hodges was justly considered one of the most captivating women of her time. Exquisitely lovely in her person, and adorned with every grace of manner and elegant accomplishment which the most finished education could bestow, these charms were enhanced by the sweetest disposition and a highly cultivated mind. The sanction of her parents having been obtained, the happy pair were united in St. James's Church, Westminster, on the second day of April, 1769. On this joyful occasion the young couple received a polite invitation to spend some time at Donnington Park, where they were welcomed with every mark of affection and respect; and Mrs. Hastings, by her goodness and amiable behaviour, became, and, thenceforward continued, a very

dear and valued friend of the Countess Dowager Selina. On the 19th of May, 1770, Mrs. Hastings blessed her affectionate husband with a son and heir, who was baptized Francis, in compliment to the then Earl, on which event many warm and friendly congratulations were made to the family at Donnington Park. Henry, their second son, was born the 22d of July, 1774, and baptized the day following, the Duchess of Cumberland, who made her infant protégé a handsome present on the occasion, standing god-mother. A short time before, the Colonel recovered some considerable property in right of his wife; and nothing now was wanting to their felicity; happy in themselves, happy in the affections of their friends, and in the smiles of their sovereign. They occupied apartments in St. James's Palace, and moved in the first and most fashionable circles of the metropolis. Both the Colonel and his Lady were much caressed at Court, and distinguished by the gracious favour of the King and Queen, who often admitted them to their familiar society. Mrs. Hastings frequently accompanied her Majesty to Hampton Court, and in her other excursions of pleasure; and the Colonel was a constant guest at the Royal board, and had the honour of being on intimate terms with the Prince of Wales, then quite a youth, as well as with the other princes of the blood. The birth of the third son, Ferdinando, took place in the winter of 1776, and, on the 14th of August, 1779, a fourth son, Hans Francis, the present Earl of Huntingdon, was born. During this series of happy events, the habitable part of the Castle of Ashby had been given by Earl Francis to Colonel Hastings, and fitted up as a country residence for the reception of his family. The Earl also gave him the Rabbit Warren, with all the grounds under that denomination adjoining the Castle; and, after the family had arrived from London, his Lordship was a daily visitor at Ashby, confirming by his countenance the then general reputation



of the country, that Theophilus, the old Reverend, as he was familiarly called, and the Colonel, would be the heirs to the titles and the estates. In fact, from the moment the Colonel established himself within these venerable walls of his ancestors, consecrated by so many historical and family recollections, the order of the succession was considered a settled thing; and, under this certainty, many of the tenantry submitted their private affairs, or accidental disagreements, to his arbitration and decision. One occurrence, indicative of the general feeling then prevalent on this subject, we shall beg leave to introduce here. The uniformity of the principal street of Ashby was at that time destroyed, as well as the pedestrian population much incommoded, particularly at night, by flights of steps projecting from the doors of the principal inhabitants. This nuisance, which had excited some complaint, the Colonel undertook to remedy, and accordingly caused the steps to be entirely pulled down, thereby opening a safe and convenient foot-way. The proprietors, however much they disapproved of such demolition, did not attempt to resist him, impressed as they were with the conviction, that he was destined to be their future lord and master. It is further worthy of observation, that, up to this period, the conduct of the Earl had been such as fully to warrant this conclusion in the minds of all parties, although he had already, namely, in the year 1779, with a most perfidious and unprovoked duplicity, perfected the will in favour of his nephew, which is an eternal disgrace to his memory. His Lordship had been long in possession of every document and tradition, necessary to prove the Colonel's hereditary right, and he must, moreover, have known of the existence of the deed of settlement of June, 1691, made by Theophilus, the seventh Earl, intended to secure a positive and distinct provision for the successor to the Earldom, as the following clause, extracted from it, sufficiently discloses.

“ And the said Earl of Huntingdon also finding that, as his estate now standeth, if it shall please God that he should die without heir male of his body, there will not be any part thereof devised or come to the person or persons, who shall in such case be Earls of Huntingdon, by reason whereof the said honour and dignity will be destitute of sufficient revenue to support the same: Now this indenture witnesseth, that, for the preventing the said inconveniences, and for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which he the said Earl of Huntingdon hath and beareth, &c. and to the intent that the persons hereinafter named, to whom, or some of whom, the honour and title of Earl of Huntingdon may come, in case the said Earl shall happen to die without issue-male of his body begotten, may be completely provided for, and the said honoured title freed from contempt, and for settling the manors,” &c. &c. Then follows the conveyance of the estates of Donnington and Melbourne, in trust, to the use of the various persons therein named, among whom is the great grandfather of Hans Francis, the present Earl, which latter is now the eldest surviving lineal male descendant and heir male of Francis, second Earl.

On becoming of age, in 1753, Earl Francis suffered a recovery of every one of his properties in the counties of Leicester, Derby, and Stafford, except the very estates specified in this deed; and by no subsequent act of his life, unless his will can be tortured to constitute such act, did he ever alienate these estates. The present Earl, however, by a sort of chequered destiny, has succeeded to the title under the most adverse, yet, at the same time the most providential, circumstances; and it cannot be expected that he should at once be able to expose and redress all his wrongs, or collect and substantiate every scattered claim “blown vagabond and frustrate” by the usurpers of his inheritance. But we must not

forget that we are writing a history here, and not discussing a legal question. To return, therefore, from this inadvertent digression. Colonel Hastings, about the year 1790, had the misfortune, while riding in St. James's Park, to be thrown from his horse, and his head coming in contact with one of the trees or benches, occasioned a fracture of the scull, by reason of which he was subject to periodical fits of insanity for the remainder of his life. He was, in consequence, placed under the immediate care of a most skilful and respectable surgeon in Loughborough, the present Mr. Vicars of that town, who did every thing for his patient that humanity could dictate, or science accomplish, but with little beneficial effect. During his intervals of comparative ease he occasionally visited Ashby, or went to see his brother Theophilus, then residing at Belton. Of these peregrinations of the Colonel, and of the melancholy, though whimsical, aberrations of his intellect, the gentry of that part of the country to this day relate several curious anecdotes. Sometimes he imagined himself owner of the entire country; at others, that he was reduced to the lowest extremity of distress; and, labouring under this last impression, would go to his nearest neighbour, and beg of him to give him a couple of cows, or one or two hundred pounds. His friends always promised compliance, which perfectly satisfied the applicant, and he went quietly away, generally reprobating the ideal spoilers of his fortune. In one of these temporary paroxysms he unfortunately destroyed a number of very valuable papers, relative to the succession and history of the family, given him by the Countess Dowager Selina, and which, it is more than probable, would now be of the utmost consequence in solving some important points involved in suspicious mystery. This rash act he committed in the presence of one of his kinsmen and a servant, who, as he was armed at the time, durst not interfere to

prevent him, and under a delusive belief that his brother had suddenly got a large family who would deprive him of the succession, to prevent which, as he imagined, he destroyed the papers.

In the mean time the Earl of Huntingdon died, on the 2d of October, 1789, leaving, among other bequests, the sum of 1000*l.* to Colonel Hastings. This item of his uncle's will Lord Moira communicated to the Colonel in the following letter, which is its own comment:—

“ My dear sir,

London, October 7, 1789.

“ Upon the melancholy event which has taken place, consolation to you would come awkwardly from my distressed feelings, and condolence would be most superfluous. I shall therefore satisfy myself with simply imparting to you a proof of the warm regard which my uncle bore to you, an intention which I have felt it a duty towards his kindness to transmit as soon as my spirits were sufficiently recollected. He has bequeathed to you one thousand pounds. Let me say I feel particular satisfaction at this proof of his affection towards you, and, that his intentions may operate as fully as possible for your convenience, I will, as executor, take care that the payment (which is directed within the year) shall be made as immediately as I can possibly assume the necessary direction of the affairs. To me nothing will more soothe the heavy regret for his loss than any opportunity of showing attention to those who were attached to him; added to which you well know, my dear sir, my sentiments of personal regard for you; and you will believe me

“ Very faithfully yours,

“ RAWDON.”

On the 10th of the same month of October, Lord Moira, his uncle's remains being yet unburied, proved the will, and, under its authority and provisions, forthwith possessed himself of all the estates, &c. &c. The shock occasioned by so sudden and unexpected a turn of affairs finished to overwhelm the Colonel's remains of reason; and his brother Theophilus at first heard the news with the most firm incredulity, exclaiming that the thing was utterly impossible. Soon finding, however, that the distressing intelligence was but too true, he resolved, in the first instance, it is said, to challenge the will as a genuine instrument, and afterwards determined to question its validity. But the winter of old age is not the season for enterprizes of such "pith and moment," and chilled in his mind the sense of wrong as well as the ardency of ambition. After the first impulsive feeling of amazement and indignation was over he gradually relinquished the idea of litigation, although to the latest moment of his life he reprobated the Earl's duplicity, which lulled him and his brother into a false security, and looked upon Lord Moira in no better light than the usurper of the rights of his family.

Colonel Hastings, being rendered quite incapable, by his unfortunate malady, of managing his domestic concerns, the burthen of that duty necessarily devolved on his wife, who acquitted herself with so much ability and prudence, as never will be erased from the memory of her children. Among the friends who offered their advice and assistance in providing for the sons, then rising to manhood, Lord Moira exerted his influence, and procured Henry, the eldest, a commission in the 25th Regiment, and afterwards had him promoted to a Captaincy in the 3d West India Regiment, commanded by Colonel Kepple. He proceeded to join that corps at Martinique, but the first breath of that climate was fatal to him. He was violently attacked by the yellow fever, and soon died in all

the horrors of that frightful disease about the beginning of the year 1796. This melancholy event, added to her other sorrows, almost reduced Mrs. Hastings to the brink of the grave; but her cup of affliction was not yet full. Ferdinando, the second son, a fine promising youth, was soon after sent out under the same inauspicious patronage, as Captain in a Regiment stationed in the same quarter. Not many weeks after his arrival in the island, where his brother had found an early grave, he also, on the 22d of February, 1801, fell a victim to that terrible distemper peculiar to the climate. Francis, the first-born, had died in his sixth year, so that there now remained, to the heart-broken, and worse than widowed mother, only one son, Hans Francis, the youngest, whom Providence has preserved, amidst the perils of warfare and the deep, to revive the long lost dignities of his illustrious House.

In 1800, Colonel Hastings's malady increased. For the convenience of his medical attendant, as well as the benefit of his native air, and as early scenes and connexions tended to soothe his mind, he had lived a considerable time among his friends in the country, while Mrs. Hastings, with her two daughters, resided for the most part in London. In this state of things his affairs had naturally fallen into decay. The premature death of his third son, Ferdinando, was soon followed by his own. He expired on the 6th day of February, 1802, at the house of a relative in Belton; and his remains were interred in the centre aisle of the church of that village, with the following inscription on a marble slab placed over his grave:

## MEMOIRS OF

In Memory of  
 George Hastings, Esquire,  
 late a  
 Lieutenant Colonel  
 in his  
 Majesty's Third Regiment of Guards,  
 who departed this life  
 the 6th of Feb.  
 1802,  
 In the 68th year of his age.

Besides the four sons already enumerated, Colonel Hastings had also two daughters; Sarah, who died unmarried in 1815, in Kent, and Selina Elizabeth, now living and unmarried. Mrs. Hastings, after a widowhood of five years, died in retirement in the same county.

The following miscellaneous letters have reference to the parties of whom this chapter treats, and are sufficiently interesting to claim a place at its conclusion.

“ My dear Sir,

“ London, July 1.

“ I received your letter last night, but happen to be so busy at this moment, that I can only say, I write by this post to have some venison sent immediately to Mrs. Hastings, as well as to Mrs. Cobbe.\* Your further commands I will attend to hereafter. With best compliments to Mrs. H.

“ I am, dear Sir,

“ Your sincere humble servant,

“ RAWDON.”

“ To Colonel Hastings.”

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\* The lady to whom his Lordship here alludes, was mother to the present Countess of Huntingdon, the two families, long before any matrimonial connexion was thought of, being on terms of intimate friendship.

“ My dearest dear Father,

“ Portsmouth, July 20, 1795.

“ I should have been happy to have paid my duty to you and my uncle had time permitted; but I was allowed only a few days to go to my grandmother, who has been so good as to defray the whole expense of fitting me out for this expedition, as she also did when I first went into the army, and has always supplied me with money and necessaries ever since I left Leicestershire. Be assured, my dear father, of the very great affection I have for you; and I flatter myself, by my good conduct and attention to my duty, to merit the continuance of yours. I am in Colonel Kepple’s regiment, and will write to you on my arrival in the West Indies. I cannot express the great joy I feel at my good fortune in having so kind a patron as Lord Moira has been in getting me promoted, so early in life, to a company, and in a regiment not subject to reduction in the event of a peace. Had I remained in the 25th regiment, any promotion I might expect would have been in the second battalion, which will certainly be ultimately disbanded; besides, many would have purchased, which must have retarded my advancement. That I will like the West Indies I make no doubt, as I am prepared both for the sea and the climate, having been at Newfoundland three very hot months, and I never enjoyed better health than I did during that time. At present also I am in high health and spirits, and am, my dearest father,

“ Your ever affectionate son,

“ HENRY HASTINGS,

“ Captain in Colonel Kepple’s Regiment.”

“ To George Hastings, Esq.  
at Loughborough.”



“ Dear Brother,

“ Hampton Court Palace, June 6th, 1794.

“ I hope you will excuse my troubling you with this, as my dear Henry is going out with Admiral Sir James Wallace to Newfoundland, which is reckoned a very good station and healthy, though cold. He will be absent some months, and wishes very much for his father's pistols to take with him. They are at Toby's, in a green baise bag; therefore I shall be obliged to you to tell Toby to send them to Loughborough as soon as possible, to be forwarded by the coach directed to me at Mr. Macdonald's, linen-draper, No. 146, New Bond-street, opposite Conduit-street, London, and I will have them sent on to him at Spithead. The reason of my desiring them to be sent so immediately is, we expect Henry will sail within a week, and I am anxious he should get them before he goes. If there are two pair of pistols I would wish to have both, as Ando may also like to have a pair, but Henry has the first claim. My mother and myself are reconciled to the dear boy's absence, as we are told by every body who has been there, that it is a very desirable and advantageous station. Henry says he expects to be back in March, and seems much pleased at the idea of going out. My mother has sent him a box of warm cloathing to guard him against the cold of the climate. Ando is at Southampton with Lord Moira's troops, and the little sailor at Portsmouth soon going out on another cruise. We expect Sarah at home very soon for the holidays. Selina is in better health than she has been for years. Ando and Frank have both written to you, which they hope you have received. We have all great reason to be proud of the dear boys, as they are all beloved and approved of by their officers for their good behaviour. I beg a line to tell me when the pistols leave Loughborough, and hope it will be from yourself, as that would give me great pleasure, and that you will give a good account of your

own health. I should more frequently write to you about the dear boys, but from your silence I am fearful of being troublesome. My mother desires her kind compliments, and Selina her affectionate duty, and am, dear Brother,

“ Your obliged and affectionate Sister,

“ SARAH HASTINGS.”

“ To the Rev. Mr. Hastings, Belton.”

“ My Dear George, “ No. 7, Terrace, Kennington, April 21, 1801.

“ I hope this will find you in good health; and I am sure it will give you pleasure to hear that our dear Selina is recovering daily. She has still, however, frequent attacks of the spasms in her side, but I hope this fine weather will restore her to our wishes. Sarah, thank God, is in good health, and as good spirits as ever. . . . . As soon as I hear from our dear Frank I will let you know. By the last letters I received from Ferdinando, he gives me hopes of his being in England in May, and as the last packet brought me none other, I flatter myself he is on his voyage.\* That will be joy indeed to you and to us all. I rejoice that our nephew Theophilus has got a curacy, but am sorry it has taken him so far from you. I have tried all my interest to get him a living or curacy, but without success. Your daughters desire their duty, and unite with me in kind love to you; for be assured, neither their affection nor mine for you is lessened by absence; and believe me, my dear George,

“ Your tenderly affectionate wife,

“ S. HASTINGS.”

“ Colonel Hastings, Little Leke,  
near Loughborough.”

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\* It is melancholy to reflect, that, while Mrs. Hastings was indulging these visions of maternal hope and affection, her son had already fallen a victim to the mortality of the climate.

## CHAPTER XIV.

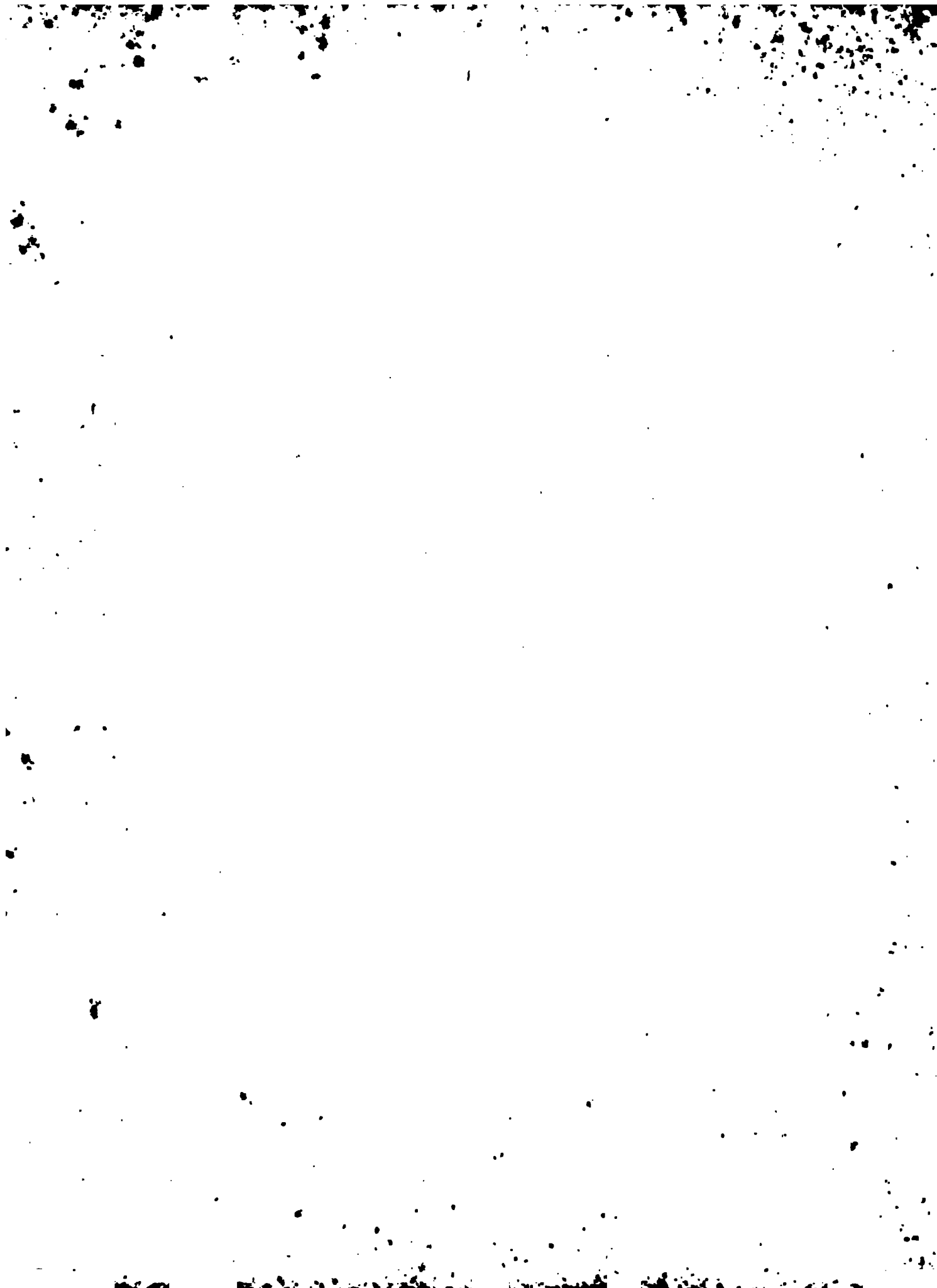
OF HANS FRANCIS, ELEVENTH AND PRESENT EARL OF HUNTINGDON.

**HANS FRANCIS**, present Earl of Huntingdon, and eleventh in succession of the noble family of Hastings to that ancient title, is fourth and only surviving son of Colonel George Hastings, and was born in the parish of St. Mary-le-bone, London, on the 14th of August, 1779. When he was about eight years old, the late Earl Francis, his predecessor, placed him on the foundation of Repton school, where he remained for three years, at the expiration of which the present Marquis of Hastings had him removed to Betsworth Academy, at Chelsea, in order to fit him for the important profession of the navy. We shall briefly follow his Lordship's progress in this arduous calling, through twelve years of almost incessant service, during which he bore a part in many of the most brilliant naval exploits achieved within that period, not without meriting the approbation and esteem of his superior officers, besides the additional testimony of some honourable scars. Having completed the usual preparatory course of study at Betsworth Academy, he was placed, early in the year 1793, just about the commencement of the late eventful war, under the immediate protection of Sir John Borlase Warren, who, at that time, commanded the *Flora* frigate, thirty-six guns, fitting at Deptford. Sir John sailed soon after from Spithead, together with the *Inconstant*, Captain Montgomery, as convoy to the Lisbon and Oporto fleets; and, during a cruise taken in the in-









terval between the arrival and departure of the convoy, chased a frigate into L'Orient, and captured L'Affamée privateer. The Flora, in company with the Endymion frigate, and Fury sloop, afterwards proceeded to escort the two merchant fleets, consisting of ninety-seven sail, and arrived safely with them in the Downs, about the middle of October the same year. In the November following Sir John received orders to hoist the flag of Rear Admiral M'Bride, who commanded a squadron of several frigates, then ordered to escort, to the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, the British troops under Earl Moira, destined to succour the royalist army in France, which at that time had penetrated to Granville, Avranches, and Dol. Several officers of high rank, both English and French, embarked in the Flora, among whom were the Earl of Moira, Generals Crosby, Hunter, and Grant, besides the French Counts, D'Herilly, Conway, and St. Vincent. After the disembarkation of four thousand men at Guernsey, and their subsequent removal to the Isle of Wight, Admiral M'Bride shifted his flag from the Flora to the Cumberland, 74 guns, which had joined his squadron; and sent Sir John, with the Crescent, La Nymphe, Druid, and Fury sloop, under his command, on a cruise off the coast of France, where he captured La Vipere, national corvette brig, eighteen guns, and one hundred and ten men, off Havre de Grace, and drove two other cruisers of the enemy on shore. In March, 1794, after several months spent off Cherbourg, Havre, and St. Maloes, with Admiral M'Bride's force, Sir John was dispatched by that officer as commodore in the Flora, with the Arethusa, Sir E. Pellew, Concorde, Sir R. Strachan, La Nymphe, Captain Murray, and the Melampus, Captain Wells, under his orders, to watch a squadron, composed of the best frigates the French navy could boast, and manned with prime seamen, which generally rendezvoused at Cherbourg, or Can-



cale, whence they made frequent excursions to the great annoyance and obstruction of British commerce. Having steered for the Seven Islands on the coast of Brittany, Sir John, about day-break on the 23d of April, 1794, descried the enemy standing out from Cancale Bay, on the watch to intercept the Cork trading fleet, of the sailing of which they had received information through hired emissaries. The signal was immediately made to form, and prepare for the action, which soon commenced, and, after three hours hard fighting, terminated in the capture of *La Pomone*, one of the finest frigates ever built in France, forty-four guns, twenty-four pounders, and four hundred men; *L'Engageante*, thirty-four guns, and four carronades, with three hundred men; and *Le Babet*, twenty-two guns, nine pounders, and two hundred men. Another frigate, *La Resolue*, escaped by outsailing the *Melampus* and *Nymphe*, who chased her into Morlaix. The French commodore, Desgarceaux, was killed by the second broadside from the *Flora*, who led, seconded by the *Arethusa*, and gallantly supported by the other British ships. At this period Lord Huntingdon was Aide-de-camp to Sir John Warren, and continued so till removed from under his command in 1799. This victory, which inflicted so severe a blow on the pride and confidence of the enemy, was the first general action at which his Lordship was present. During the whole of the contest he kept his proper station on deck, firm and collected, though so rough a taste of his profession might be supposed to produce other sensations on a mind not long released from school; more especially as the only man lost in the *Flora*, was killed by a cannon shot so close to him, that the brains, as if in performance of a kind of initiatory ceremony, bespattered his Lordship's face and clothes all over. His Majesty, soon after, was pleased to create Sir John one of the Knights of the Military Order of the Bath. It will

be satisfactory to insert in this place the more detailed narrative of the defeat and capture of the French, as officially communicated to Admiral M'Bride, in the dispatches of Commodore Sir J. B. Warren, and Sir R. Strachan.

" SIR,

" *Flora at Sea, April 25, 1794.*

" In pursuance of your orders, I proceeded with the ships named in the margin,\* to cruise on the coast of France; and on the twenty-third instant, from variable winds, being to the westward of Guernsey, Rock Dove† bearing E. by S. four or five leagues, the Seven Islands S. S. W. four or five leagues, Guernsey N. E. half east seven or eight leagues; I discovered, at four in the morning, four sail standing out to sea upon the larboard tack, the wind S. S. W.; and, as the morning began to break, I saw from their manœuvres, and firing of guns, they were some of the enemy's ships of war. They soon afterward appeared in a line of battle on the larboard tack: and, as our ships, from having chased, were not collected, I made the signal to form in succession. We crossed each other on contrary tacks, and the enemy began an action at a considerable distance; their sternmost ship having passed over, they again tacked; but the wind changing two points in our favour, I perceived it was impossible to weather them; and therefore made the signal for the ships to engage as they came up, so as to prevent the enemy gaining their own shore, and to oblige them to come to a close action; I am happy to say we succeeded in this object.

The engagement lasted nearly three hours, when two of the ships struck. I then made the signal for those who were coming up to

\* *Arethusa, Melampus, La Nymphe, and La Concorde.*

† *Rock Dove Rocks, a large ledge of rocks more than a league in length, about seven leagues S. S. W. from Guernsey.*

pursue and engage the enemy; as, from the situation of this ship, having led the line into action, she was incapable of continuing the pursuit.

“ I am much indebted to Sir Edward Pellew, in the *Arethusa*, who was my second astern, and to the other officers and ships under my command, who exerted themselves in engaging and pursuing the enemy.

“ The French squadron consisted of *L'Engageante*, thirty-six guns, eighteen pounders, three hundred men, Monsieur Desgarciaux, Chef D'Escadre; *La Pomone*, forty-four guns, twenty-four pounders, four hundred men; *La Resolue*, thirty-six guns, eighteen pounders, three hundred and twenty men; *Le Babet*, twenty-two guns, nine pounders, two hundred men: they sailed from Concale Bay the evening before we met them.

“ I owe every obligation and acknowledgment to the officers and crew of this ship, for their zeal and exertions upon this and every former occasion in the service of their King and country; and trust you will recommend them to their Lordships' notice and protection.

“ Enclosed are lists of the killed and wounded, and also of the ships taken from the enemy.

“ I have the honour to remain, &c.

“ JOHN BORLASE WARREN.”

After some time spent in refitting at Portsmouth, the *Flora*, together with the *Arethusa* and *Melampus*, were again detached from Admiral M'Bride's squadron, on a separate service, cruising off the western coast of Brittany and La Vendée. At one time, owing to a peculiar combination of chances, they had no alternative left but to steer right through a part of the great convoy bound from America

to France, laden with provisions and corn for the latter, just at the period of her extremest distress. In this critical predicament they were pursued by three of the enemy's line of battle ships (seventy-fours), and three frigates, for several hours ; and, though Sir John passed within hail, and spoke some of the rear of the convoy, he escaped at length from so unequal a force by superior nautical skill. About the commencement of the year 1795, Sir John received orders to hoist his broad pendant on board *La Pomone*, of forty-four guns, the largest of the frigates captured in the late action, as commodore of an expedition then planned against the French coast. The naval force placed under his orders consisted of the *Robust*, seventy-four, Captain Thornborough; the *Thunderer*, seventy-four, Captain Bertie; *Standard*, sixty-four, Captain Ellison; *Anson*, forty-four, Captain Durham; *Artois*, thirty-eight, Sir Edmund Nagle; *Arethusa*, thirty-eight, Captain Robinson; *Concorde*, thirty-six, Captain Hunt; and the *Galatea*, thirty-two, Captain Keats; with six gun-boats and cutters. Fifty sail of transports, having on board nearly three thousand emigrant troops, commanded by Counts de Pursaye and D'Hervilly, were attached to the squadron. The whole force, sailing from Yarmouth Roads, Isle of Wight, joined ~~Earl~~<sup>Lord</sup> Bridport's fleet off Ushant, and, after remaining some time in company, continued to steer for Belleisle. The ensuing evening the *Galatea*, Captain Keats, having been sent to look into Quiberon Bay, was chased by the French fleet, under Admiral Villaret Joyeuse, who soon after hove in sight. Commodore Warren immediately threw out the signal for the whole convoy to wear, and the *Concorde* to lead them, and for the line of battle ships and frigates to form in the rear. Early on the following morning, Lord Bridport, who had fortunately received information of the situation of the convoy from a *chasse-marée* sent by Captain Keats, and the Thun-

derer dispatched by Sir John, for that purpose, was descried under a press of sail, bearing down upon the enemy. The Commodore, according to orders, detached the remaining line of battle ships from his squadron to join the Commander-in-chief; but, notwithstanding their exertions to that effect, they could not come up, till the action off L'Orient, of the 23d of June, 1795, had been decided with such an addition of glory to the British flag. Sir John subsequently proceeded for his destination, and shortly after anchored between Belleisle and the entrance of Quiberon Bay. Arrangements were made to effect a landing; and about day-break, next morning, the whole emigrant force was disembarked at the village of St. Genes, without the loss of a single man. For a fortnight after, the vessels were employed landing arms and ammunition for sixteen thousand royalists, who had joined the emigrant army, and who were dispatched in different divisions up the country. During the series of gallant and perilous, but unsuccessful, operations which followed, and which terminated in the defeat and re-embarkation of the emigrant force, Lord Huntingdon, in the boats commanded by Lieutenant Burke, employed on the desperate service of bringing out, under a tremendous fire from Quiberon fort, a British vessel, which had run on shore, was severely wounded in the left leg. After the failure of this enterprise, Sir John next proceeded to take possession of the little islands of Hedic and Houac, in the bay, in order to refresh the troops, and continue, by every means that might offer, his assistance to the cause of the royalists. Here he was soon joined by several transports, carrying four thousand British troops, under the command of General, now Sir John Doyle, and also by the Jason frigate, thirty-eight guns, Captain Stirling, having on board His Royal Highness Monsieur, Duc D'Artois, and the Duc de Bourbon. The whole force then advanced to the mouth of

the Loire, and took possession of the Isle Dieu, where the English forces were landed, and a communication attempted to be opened with the royalists in La Vendée. Three months after, towards the close of the year 1795, the island was evacuated, and Sir John's squadron brought off the whole of the troops, and all the stores, with only the trifling loss of six flat-bottomed boats. From this period Sir John Warren, with his esteemed young protégé, was employed in continual and successful cruises, from the port of Falmouth, off the coast of France, under the immediate orders of the Admiralty. By the vigilance of his squadron, as well as the division of ships under Sir F. Pellew, the convoys destined to carry ammunition and supplies to the French fleet in Brest, were continually intercepted. At one time, La Pomone, Galatea, Anson, and Artois, fell in with a French convoy of seventy sail, under escort of six vessels of war. An engagement immediately ensued, but the enemy, in the confusion created by their numbers, found means to escape, with the exception of L'Etoile sloop of war, and four merchant-men. On this occasion the Committee of Merchant Seamen for the Encouragement of the Capture of the Enemy's Privateers, presented Sir John Warren with a sword of one hundred guineas value, in consideration of the protection the commerce of Great Britain had derived from his squadron; the list of its services then amounting to no less than twenty-three neutrals detained; eighty-seven merchantmen captured, and fifty-four destroyed; twenty-five ships and vessels of war captured, and twelve destroyed, besides nineteen vessels re-captured, making a total of two hundred and twenty sail. The Commodore's squadron, which had been thus actively and beneficially employed, by a new arrangement, was now attached to the Channel fleet, commanded by Lord Bridport, and, having watched for some time the motions of the enemy in Brest, was afterwards entirely broken up,

and distributed on other points of service. During the year 1797, Sir John was appointed to the *Canada*, seventy-four guns, and stationed off Brest, to mark the enemy then ready and anxious to sail. At the close of the following year, when the Brest fleet at length succeeded in escaping out of the harbour, and putting to sea, Sir John received orders from Vice-Admiral Sir Alan Gardner, in Cawsand Bay, to proceed with the *Foudroyant*, eighty guns, Captain Sir T. Byard; the *Robust*, seventy-four guns, Captain Thornborough; and the *Magnanime*, forty-four guns, Captain the Honourable M. de Courcy, in pursuit of the enemy. Accordingly they set sail without delay, and, struggling with very unfavourable weather, arrived off the coast of Ireland without meeting a single vessel of war. They then steered under a press of sail to the north-west along the shore, and at length, on the 12th of October, fell in with, and engaged, the French fleet, consisting of one ship of the line, *La Hoche*, eighty guns, eight frigates, a schooner, and a brig, having on board troops, and military supplies, destined to aid the rebels in Ireland. The action commenced at twenty minutes past seven o'clock in the morning; and, at eleven, *La Hoche*, after a gallant defence, struck, as did, five hours after, three of the frigates, who were making off. Three more of the enemy's dispersed frigates were subsequently captured, after an obstinate resistance, by the *Melampus* and *Ethalion*, and another by the *Anson*. The following are Sir John's official dispatches on this memorable occasion.

“ To Vice-Admiral Kingsmill.

“ SIR,

“ *Canada*, Lough Swilly, Ireland, 16th October, 1798.

“ In pursuance of the orders and instructions I received by the *Kangaroo*, I proceeded, with the ships named in the margin, off

Achile Head; and on the 10th instant I was joined by His Majesty's ships *Melampus* and *Doris*; the latter of whom I directed to look out for the enemy off Tory Island and the Rosses: in the evening of the same day, the *Amelia* appeared in the offing; when Captain Herbert informed me he had parted with the *Ethalion*, *Anson*, and *Sylph*, who with great attention had continued to observe the French squadron, since their sailing on the 17th ult. In the morning of the 11th, however, these two ships also fell in with us; and at noon the enemy were discovered in the N.W. quarter, consisting of one ship of eighty guns, eight frigates, a schooner, and a brig. I immediately made the signal for a general chase, and to form in succession as each ship arrived up with the enemy; whom, from their great distance to windward, and an hollow sea, it was impossible to come up with before the 12th.

“ The chase was continued in very bad and boisterous weather, all day of the 11th, and the following night; when at half past five, A.M. they were seen at a little distance to windward, the line of battle ship having lost her main top-mast.

“ The enemy bore down and formed their line in close order upon the starboard tack; and from the length of the chase, and our ships being spread, it was impossible to close with them before seven, A.M., when I made the *Robust*'s signal to lead, which was obeyed with much alacrity, and the rest of the ships to form in succession in the rear of the van.

“ The action commenced at twenty minutes past seven o'clock, A.M., the Rosses bearing S. S. W. five leagues; and at eleven, the *Hoche*, after a gallant defence, struck; and the frigates made sail from us: the signal to pursue the enemy was made immediately, and in five hours afterwards three of the frigates hauled down their colours also; but they, as well as the *Hoche*, were obstinately de-



fended, all of them being heavy frigates, and, as well as the ship of the line, entirely new, full of troops and stores, with every necessary for the establishment of their views and plans in Ireland.

“ I am happy to say, that the efforts and conduct of every officer and man in the squadron seemed to have been actuated by the same spirit, zeal, and unanimity in their King and country's cause; and I feel myself under great obligations to them, as well as the officers and men of this ship, for their exertions upon this occasion; which will, I hope, recommend them to their Lordships' favour.

“ I left Captain Thornborough after the action, with the *Magnanime*, *Ethalion*, and *Amelia*, with the prizes; and am sorry to find he is not arrived; but trust they will soon make their appearance.

“ I have the honour to remain, Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble Servant,

“ JOHN BORLASE WARREN.

“ P. S.—The ships with us in the action were, the *Canada*, *Robust*, *Foudroyant*, *Magnanime*, *Ethalion*, *Melampus*, and *Amelia*.

“ The *Anson* joined us in the latter part of the action, having lost her mizen mast in chase the day before.

“ I have sent my first Lieutenant *Turquand* to take the command of the *Hoche*.”

The following states some particulars not mentioned in the *Gazette* :

*Dublin Castle, October 18, 1798.*

Extract of a Letter from Sir John Borlase Warren, to Lord Viscount Castlereagh, dated from His Majesty's ship the *Canada* in Lough Swilly, the 16th instant.

“ MY LORD,

“ I take the liberty of communicating to you, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that I fell in with the enemy's squadron on the 12th instant, the Rosses bearing S. S. W. five leagues ; and, after an action which continued most of the day, four of their ships struck their colours.

“ I believe a brig with Napper Tandy on board, was in company, as she left the French at the commencement of the business. The enemy's ships had numbers of troops on board, arms, stores, and ammunition ; and large quantities of papers were torn and thrown overboard after they had struck.

“ I am of opinion that few of the frigates which escaped will arrive in France, as they had received much damage in their masts and rigging ; and, from the violent gales that followed the next day, they must be in a crippled state, and may in all probability be picked up by some of the squadrons on the coast of France, or by Admiral Kingsmill's cruisers. They had thrown every thing overboard, boats, spars, arm chests, &c.

“ I left the prizes with the Robust, Magnanime, Ethalion, and Amelia. The Hoche, of eighty guns, was one of the ships taken.

“ I am, &c.

“ J. B. WARREN.”

On his return from the coast of Ireland after this brilliant affair, Sir John Warren was honoured with the freedom of the Cities of London and Londonderry, and received the unanimous thanks of the Houses of Lords and Commons both in England and Ireland. Lord Huntingdon, having accompanied his gallant friend Sir John through six years of arduous and brilliant service, being present in every action providentially without receiving any very serious hurt,

and having thus honourably gone through the professional ordeal of a Midshipman, now passed his examination for a Lieutenancy, and was thereupon appointed Acting Lieutenant in the Sylph Brig, commanded by Captain J. Chambers White. In this vessel he cruised for two months off the Western Islands, and was at the capture of two Spanish merchantmen. On his return to Plymouth with the prizes, he received the commission of Second Lieutenant of his Majesty's sloop, Racoon, Captain Lloyd, at Sheerness, and continuing on the Downs station for the protection of trade, captured several row boat privateers, and retook the Benjamin and Elizabeth belonging to Alderman Lushington, of London. Early in 1800, his Lordship was appointed First Lieutenant of the Thisbe, commanded by Captain Morrison, in which ship he accompanied the expedition to Egypt, under Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and served the whole of that naval campaign. He returned late in the year 1801, and, on the subsequent short peace of Amiens, retired into Leicestershire, where he settled with his uncle the Reverend Theophilus Hastings, at Leke, Colonel Hastings, his father, having died shortly before. The interval of repose for his Lordship, as for the country, was, however, but of very short duration. Through the friendship and interest of the immortal Lord Nelson, he was appointed second Lieutenant of L'Aigle, Captain Wolfe; and afterwards, on the breaking out of the new war in 1803, sent from Portsmouth to Weymouth Roads to impress seamen for his Majesty's service. Whilst performing this unpopular duty in the Island of Portland, the party under his command were furiously attacked by a tumultuous assemblage of disorderly persons, and a conflict ensued, in which seventeen of his men were wounded, and three of the assailants unfortunately lost their lives. Captain Wolfe immediately despatched him to London, to lay a proper account of this un-

pleasant affair before Government, and prevent the misrepresentations with which public opinion is usually abused in like cases ; but, on his landing at Weymouth, he was recognized and intercepted by the mob from Portland, who seized him, and compelled the Mayor, by threatening worse consequences, to commit him to Dorchester gaol for the alleged murder of three of the inhabitants. Indeed his Lordship himself humanely complied, and even advised the Mayor to acquiesce in the wishes of the populace with respect to his detention, rather than risk the further evils, which might result from opposition on the part of his friends. After being shamefully allowed to remain in confinement for six weeks, he was removed by Habeas Corpus to Westminster, and there bailed by Lord Moira. Immediately on his liberation, his Lordship, with a rapidity of operation which marks the elasticity of youthful spirits, as well as the vicissitudes of the naval profession, posted off to Ipswich, carried his present Countess, to whom he had previously paid his addresses, to London, married her at St. Ann's Church, Soho, on the 12th of May, 1803, and early the following morning parted from his bride to join his ship at Plymouth, in consequence of peremptory orders to that effect. On his arrival, he found L'Aigle just getting under weigh for a cruise to intercept the French merchantmen then coming from the West Indies, and he was fortunate enough to make some very valuable captures before his return for trial at the summer assizes of Dorchester. At the necessary time his Lordship, and his brother officers implicated in the riot, gave themselves up to the law, and were all honourably acquitted.

He was next removed by his friend Lord Nelson from L'Aigle to the Diamond, thirty-eight guns, Captain Elphinstone, where he remained till the death, in 1804, of his uncle, the Reverend Mr. Hastings, on which event he procured leave of absence from the Admi-

ralty to investigate his claim to the dormant earldom. Unhappily, however, he was prevented from prosecuting his right at that time by peculiar and discouraging circumstances, and, after some inquiry respecting legal expenses, which only served to deter him, he turned once more to the tardy honours of his profession in lieu of the hereditary dignities which seemed lost to him. In the latter end of the same year he was appointed Second Lieutenant in the Audacious, Captain Lawford, in which ship he served in the Channel Fleet, under the command of Admiral Cornwallis, till 1805. Another change now made him Flag Lieutenant to Admiral Douglas, in the Hibernia, where he continued till the Admiral struck his flag. At this period his Lordship, perhaps weary of such frequent changes with but little advancement, repaired to London, and waited on Lord Moira, expecting, in view of his long and various services, and through the recommendation of that nobleman, the rank of commander, but was told that Lord Barham had so completely shut the door of promotion, that his only chance was to go out to the West Indies, and wait a death vacancy. This proposal of his noble relative he indignantly rejected, as both his elder brothers, sent out to the same quarter by Lord Moira's interest, had fallen victims to that inhospitable climate. After this refusal, Lord Moira had him appointed Acting Ordnance Barrack Master in the Isle of Wight; and in the year 1808, Ordnance Store-keeper, in Enniskillen, Ireland. In this humble situation, on a salary sufficiently limited, his Lordship lived for more than nine years in dignified domestic retirement in the bosom of his family, the honours of his ancestors, and the rights of his birth, almost forgotten. Among a warm-hearted and hospitable people, his benevolent and generous nature, and the conciliating affability of his manners, at once effaced all distinctions of country, and soon made him beloved and respected by all classes

of society. In every scheme of charity or public benefit, he took a ready interest and a leading part; and the private relief administered to the poor in seasons of sickness or distress by his family, is written on many a grateful memory, and will long be recollected with blessings. It was towards the close of the above period, that an accidental conversation, in a social hour, between him and the writer of the present memoir, with whom and whose family his Lordship had long been on terms of familiar friendship, led to the revival of his hereditary claim to the Earldom of Huntingdon. Proceedings were soon after commenced; the necessary proofs collected, not without much labour and difficulty by reason of the long and almost fatal abeyance in which the title had been suffered to remain; and the business prosecuted with so much spirit and perseverance, that, before the expiration of the comparatively short space of twelve months, his Majesty's writ of summons, under the great seal, was issued, requiring the Earl of Huntingdon's attendance in the House of Peers. His Lordship accordingly took the oaths and his seat on the 14th day of January, 1819, at the opening of the late session, being the first of the present parliament.

Since his Lordship's accession to the rank and senatorial dignity of his family, he has been assiduous in his attendance on the House, and enters into questions of national concern with that animated interest and earnestness, which becomes a member of the great legislative council of the country. In public life he has yet had but little experience, or time, for the developement of his capacity, or the formation of his political opinions; but his strong natural sense, and solid judgment, combined with habits of attention, afford a promise of very valuable talents for general parliamentary business. Of his private virtues we feel that we cannot speak adequately, without

giving pain to that manly modesty, which accompanies the possession and exercise of them. Yielding, therefore, to the delicacy and reserve which our situation as contemporaries imposes on us, suffice it briefly to say, that his character is formed on the strictest principles of honour, and the warmest feelings of humanity ; and, as in his early profession he was always brave and generous, so in every domestic relation is he exemplary, unostentatiously religious, and nobly hospitable, the most affectionate of fathers and husbands, a social and elegant companion, a humane master, and a steady friend. These are qualities which embellish illustrious birth, and enhance a coronet, the inheritance of three centuries ; and we may venture to predict that the ancient Earldom of Huntingdon, in point of creation the third eldest in England, will lose nothing of its moral and historical lustre in the hands of the present representative.

At this epoch of our history it may not be deemed unseasonable to state, by way of recapitulation, that his Lordship's lineage is not only noble, but royal ; his ancestor, Sir Edward Hastings, being both on the paternal and maternal side legitimately descended from Edward the Third. On his father's side he is descended from, and heir male general of, Prince George, Duke of Clarence, younger brother to Edward the Fourth, and elder brother of Richard the Third. In the maternal line, he derives his descent from the famous Devereux, Earl of Essex, and through him from the Princess Anne Plantagenet, daughter of Prince Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, youngest son of Edward the Third. From this Princess Anne, he is also descended, on the paternal side, through her great grand-daughter, the Lady Anne Stafford, daughter to her grandson Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, and wife of George, first Earl of Huntingdon.

On the 12th of May, 1803, in St. Anne's Church, Soho, London, the Earl of Huntingdon married Frances, third daughter of the Reverend Richard Chaloner Cobbe (a descendant of the family of the Earls of Godolphin), Rector of Great Marlow, county of Bucks, and son of the Reverend Richard C. Cobbe, nephew and Chaplain to his Grace the late Lord Archbishop of Dublin, Vicar of St. Anne's and of Finlas, and Treasurer of St. Patrick's, in Ireland. By this lady, whose character is a compound of those amiable feminine virtues which find their nourishment and exercise in the sphere of domestic life, his Lordship has issue four daughters: Lady Frances Theophila Anna, born June 23, 1805; Lady Selina Arabella Lucy, born May 15, 1807; Lady Arabella Georgina, born April, 1811; and Lady Louisa, born January, 1816; besides four sons, Francis Theophilus Henry, Lord Hastings, heir apparent, born June, 1808; John Armstrong Hastings, born October 29, 1813, died January 1, 1814; George Fowler, born November 28, 1814; and Edward Plantagenet Robin Hood, born August 12, 1818.

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**TITLE.—EARL OF HUNTINGDON.**

**CREATIONS.**—Baron Hastings of Ashby de la Zouch, in the County of Leicester, July 26, 1461 (1 Edward IV.), Baron Hungerford of Heytesbury, in Wiltshire, jure Uxoris, and by writ of summons to parliament November 15, 1482 (22 Edward IV.), originally January 7, 1425-6 (4 Henry VI.), and Earl, December 8, 1529, 21 Henry VIII.

**ARMS.**—Argent, a Maunch, Sable.

**CREST.**—On a Wreath, a Buffalo's Head, erased, Sable, crowned and gorged, with a ducal Coronet, and armed, Or.



SUPPORTERS.—Two Man-Tigers, affrontée, Or, their visage like the human, proper.

MOTTO.—*In Veritate Victoria, and Honorantes me Honorabo.*

CHIEF SEATS.—Abbey Chm Hire, Radnorshire.

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS**  
**HAD IN THE CLAIM**  
**OF**  
**HANS FRANCIS HASTINGS**  
**TO**  
**THE EARLDOM OF HUNTINGDON;**  
**AND OF OCCURRENCES PROXIMATE AND INCIDENTAL TO**  
**HIS LORDSHIP'S SUCCESSION.**



## INVESTIGATION OF THE CLAIM.

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*"Glost. What think'st thou then of HASTINGS?"*

*"Buck. He shall be tried, my Lord."*

*Tragedy of RICHARD III.*

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*"Hear me for my cause."*

SHAKESPEARE.

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IT has been well said, that the history of a single house, or family, is similar to that of a kingdom, and often exhibits, only on a limited scale, and with a change of persons, the same events and revolutions, which happen on the ampler theatre of states and empires. This observation is, perhaps, peculiarly true as applied to the annals which I have just brought to a conclusion. The illustrious House of Hastings has had its gradual rise from remote antiquity, its advancement to the meridian of eminence and power, its "period of declension," and, finally, it now stands re-instated in the possession of its hereditary honours. In the preceding pages I have retraced the history of these circumstances, combining, in my progress, the materials collected from various sources into one digested narrative, carried down through a period of seven centuries, till, arriving at the present time, it has been my most grateful duty to add one more, a new and living link, to the chain of succession. I have shown a rejected scion of that noble stock, after years of alienation from his rights, and absence, I might almost say, exile, from his native country, returning, like Sterne's Marquis, to reclaim the

sword and unsullied dignities of his ancestors, and assuming his seat in the legislature under the sanction of the laws, ratified by a Prince, in whose truly royal mind no private feeling, or partiality of friendship, is ever suffered to interfere with the wise and impartial administration of public justice. The occurrences proximate and incidental to his accession, and the difficulties encountered in prosecuting that object, I am now about to detail. In this division of the task, to which I have pledged myself, I hope for indulgence if, relaxing somewhat of professional and historical solemnity, I occasionally venture to mingle a lighter tone of sentiment, and a spice of the gaiety inspired by the fortunate result, with transactions, that, indeed, appear better adapted to make part of a novel, (into which form, by the way, I may hereafter be induced to expand the whole story,) than to accompany what perhaps only should be a grave law report. Yet I trust I shall be able to steer a middle course, without trespassing too far on the gravity of the one, or drawing indiscreetly on the privileges of the other. At all events, as the account is that of my own personal exertions and feelings, set down on my tablets in the order they occurred, the reader will have the complaisance to take it in my own "round, unvarnished" way, still keeping the redeeming assurance in his mind, that the most scrupulous adherence to matter of fact is preserved throughout, and, moreover, that the minutest particulars accessory to so remarkable a case, are deemed deserving of record by many eminent personages more or less interested in the event. In deciding questions of mere law, precedent has great weight; but the contrary, I apprehend, takes place with respect to the statutes of literature and taste, the benefit of which I plead here. I have elsewhere said, that it was judged proper to deviate, in the present publication, from usual forms, so as to produce a kind of *Huntingdoniana*,—a

book of general reference for all that concerns the history, and restored succession, of the House of Hastings; and, as many curious anecdotes, bearing on the subject, came out in the course of my investigation of the business, it became necessary to provide for their reception. Some diversity of manner may, therefore, be admitted, and some harmless *badinage* forgiven, if only for the purpose of making the perusal less tedious to the general reader, for whose sake, moreover, I have abstained from the use of all technical phrases. Having put in this preliminary plea, I will now proceed to give a circumstantial account of my legal mission, from the moment it was first conceived, down to the period of its final completion.

Some time in the month of February, 1809, Lord Huntingdon (for I feel justified in giving the title a retrospective effect, to use a parliamentary phrase) arrived at Enniskillen, having vacated his situation in the Isle of Wight, and took possession of his new office of Ordnance Store-Keeper of that garrison, an appointment procured for him through the interest of the present Marquis of Hastings. The salary annexed to this situation is about 150*l.* a year, so that it did not redound much to his Lordship's profit, and still less to the honour of his noble patron and relative. Not long after his arrival, he was visited by Major John Armstrong, of Lisgoole, in that vicinage, a gentleman of fortune, and highly respectable family, brother of the late much lamented Colonel James Armstrong, Aid-de-camp and Secretary to the Marquis of Wellesley, and afterwards to the Duke of York, whose Esquire he was when his Royal Highness received the Order of the Garter. Major Armstrong, who, along with the external graces of a fine figure, and perfect elegance of manners, is blessed with the warmest and best of hearts, having found in Lord Huntingdon, (then commonly called Captain

Hastings,) a mind and character worthy of his esteem, they became, and ever since have remained, the most inseparable and attached friends. The Major, who is a relative of mine, shortly after introduced my father to his Lordship, and the acquaintance with our family, such was the conciliating affability of his manner, almost immediately cemented into warm regard. His Lordship, who was very partial to field sports, soon met with a corresponding disposition in me, and we generally enjoyed these sylvan recreations in each other's society twice a week during the proper season. During one of these excursions an occurrence took place, which, as it is to this day often referred to in the hour of conviviality by his Lordship as a sporting anecdote, I, by his desire, relate it here. On the last day of October, in the year 1816, I think, we went out snipe shooting, accompanied by a Captain Ferguson, of a dragoon regiment then quartered at Enniskillen. We found abundance of game, and the goodness of the sport induced us to continue the pursuit, till the descending shadows of evening disappointed our ardour, and reminded us to return. It was Hallow-eve, a popular festival in Ireland, and both Lord Huntingdon and myself had invited some particular friends to dine at our respective houses. We now therefore, left the field, covered with honourable mud, and bearing off ample spoils of victory, and hastened homewards. On reaching, however, the banks of a considerable river, across which lay our way, we had the mortification to find that some person, either for his own accommodation, or our annoyance, had carried our boat to the opposite shore. After consulting awhile in this awkward predicament, and reflecting, that any further delay would probably create alarm in our families, and perhaps suspicions among our guests of some breach of the laws of hospitality, held so sacred in that country, there appeared no alternative but that one

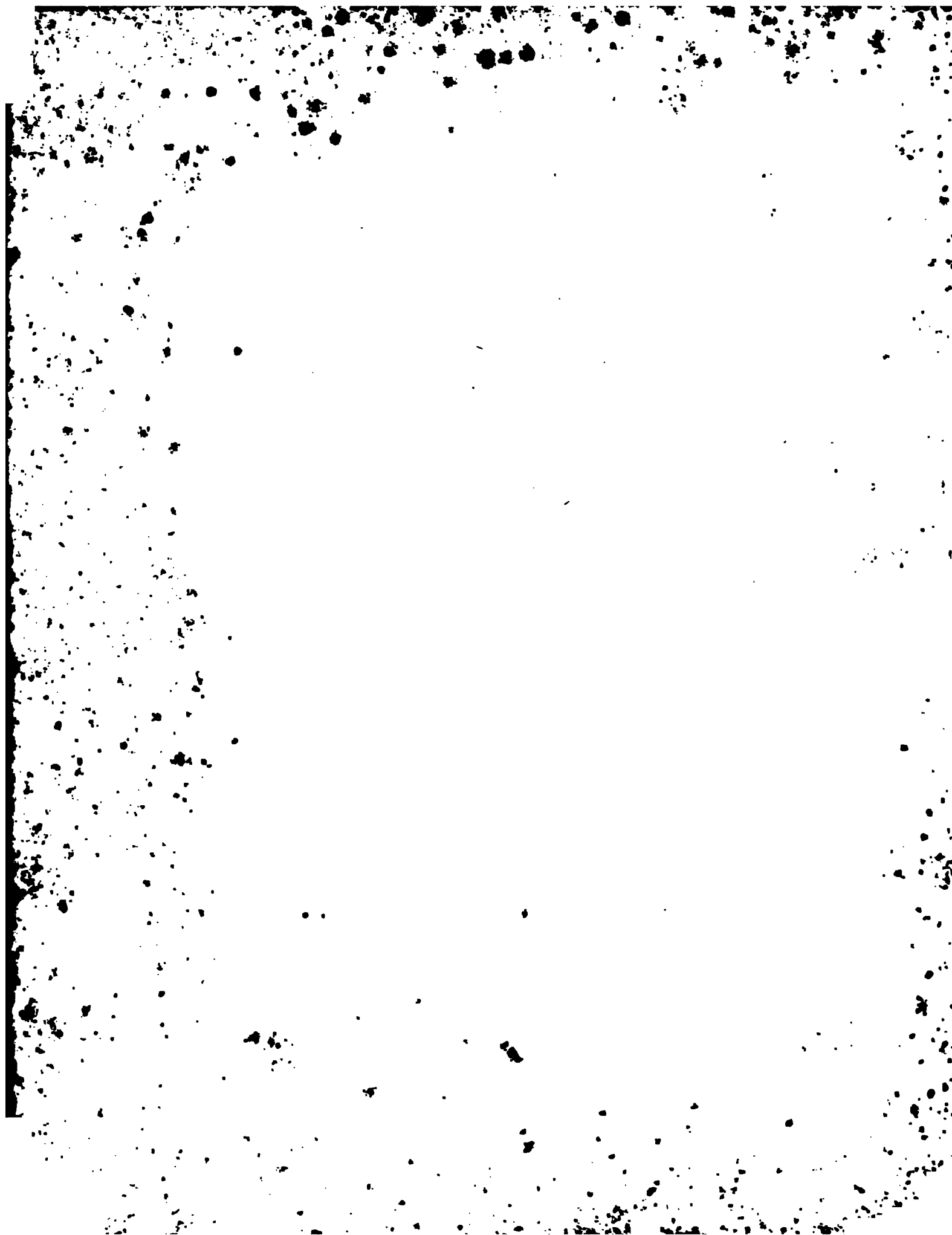
of the party should swim across and bring over the vessel. This, as the most amphibious of my readers will be inclined to allow, was no very delectable pastime for a cold, frosty, setting-in of November, and after a fagging day's sport. But it was no time to debate about comforts ; the night was closing fast upon us, and nothing in the shape of succour appeared. We were all three expert swimmers, and having pledged ourselves to each other to abide the chance, we cast lots, and the glory of the enterprise became mine. I quickly plunged into the intercepting current, not indeed like Cassius, "armed and accoutred as I was," but prudently divested of my outer garments. Notwithstanding the icy and restricting embrace of the waves, which were so intensely cold as almost to arrest the blood in my veins, I breasted them "with lusty sinews and heart of controversy," till I reached the boat, of which I gladly took possession, and rowed back triumphant, but half petrified, to my anxious companions, who were in no small degree alarmed for my safety. We speedily joined our delighted families, where, round the social fire, and festive board, I soon forgot the biting and perilous *rencontre* with the waters, which it had been my destiny to sustain.

This intercourse tended to mature, and firmly rivet, that friendship with which I have been honoured, which I am proud to believe has remained unshaken on either part, though subjected, in the cross currents and false reckonings of human affairs, to no trifling shocks, and of which I devoutly say, *Esto perpetuò!* Our acquaintance, in proper course of time, became of such a confidential nature, as to put me in possession of his Lordship's views and interests, and I was intrusted with the management of all his concerns, in which the interference of a friend, or professional man, could be considered necessary. Though his Lordship has only re-



cently succeeded to the dignity of the Peerage, and though his private fortune was comparatively limited, nevertheless he has always been enabled, through the excellent management of his beloved Countess, to live independent, and hold that highly respectable station in society, which belonged to his illustrious birth, without any unbecoming curtailment in his expenditure or equipage, or any abridgment of those social and hospitable enjoyments, which enhance domestic felicity. His residence was a rural, but elegant cottage, situated in a retired part of Enniskillen, and looking into a beautiful and romantic little garden, the foot of which, declining to the water's edge, was washed by the billows of Erne, curving through the contiguous valley, and embracing the island, on which the town stands, in a kind of transparent girdle. In this secluded spot, in the exercise of continual benevolence towards the poor, and of an elegant, but economical intercourse of hospitality with several families of the first distinction in that country, his Lordship, his amiable Countess, and lovely children, resided, till the commencement of the proceedings, which have terminated so fortunately. Of her Ladyship, I fully feel the propriety of speaking with respectful reserve, knowing, as I do, from a long and intimate acquaintance with her character, that I cannot say too much in reference to her merits, nor too little in view of that modesty and delicacy, which shrinks from every approach of praise. Yet I trust I may be permitted to gratify myself and my readers with a slight sketch, without incurring the imputation of either presumption or flattery. The present Countess of Huntingdon is in figure almost "all that the eye looks for in woman," elegantly tall, and finely shaped and proportioned. Her countenance is handsome, and derives a peculiar expression of vivacity and sentiment from a pair of bright and penetrating eyes. Her manners are perfectly dig-





nified, and her conversation sensible and refined. In her perceptions she is quick and correct, and warm to a degree in her friendships. Pious herself, she is conscientiously strict in enforcing the attendance on religious duties among her family and domestics. Her Ladyship, in fine, is just, charitable, humane, and the most affectionate of wives and mothers.

Of the study of heraldry, and more particularly the concomitant branch of pedigree, I have ever been peculiarly fond. Indulging this sort of penchant, I acquired a pretty general knowledge of every family of distinction in my native country; and a casual conversation, arising out of a trivial circumstance, first suggested the idea of claiming the dormant Earldom of Huntingdon for my friend. As the story, from its consequences, may not be deemed uninteresting, I will relate it here, and with the more gratification, as it affords me an opportunity to rectify an erroneous impression, which had for some time existed in the minds of no small number of Lord Huntingdon's acquaintances. In the spring of the year 1817, it was whispered in the town and vicinity of Enniskillen, that some very serious altercation had occurred between his Lordship and a neighbouring nobleman, at whose princely mansion, and hospitable board, he was ever a welcome guest. This unpleasant fracas, it was said, arose from the circumstance of my Lord Huntingdon having hunted down a favourite fox belonging to that personage, contrary to his wish, and without his permission. Incensed at this liberty, the noble owner made use of such unwarrantable language, as Lord Huntingdon could not listen to without resenting as a soldier and a gentleman. A meeting, according to report, was therefore demanded, but refused by the noble party, on the ground that the challenger was a commoner. To this objection the latter indignantly retorted, that he was his opponent's superior in point of family

descent, being eldest lineal male descendant of the House of Hastings, and entitled to the Earldom of Huntingdon, though he had not thought proper to assume that dignity. This assurance was satisfactory on the point of etiquette, and the time and place appointed for a meeting. By the seasonable interference of friends, however, a most cordial reconciliation was effected, and so the affair ended. Being on confidential terms with Lord Huntingdon at the time this well fabricated story was put in circulation, I requested to know whether such was the fact; but his Lordship laughed at my credulity for paying any attention to such nonsense, and assured me the whole was destitute of the slightest foundation. Satisfied that it was so, I said no more of the circumstance, nor did it again occur to my recollection till the month of June following, when the subject was accidentally broached at my table in Dublin, the Earl and Countess, at that time, having honoured me with a visit. The story created some merriment, and the facility of invention exercised on the occasion by certain of our provincial acquaintances, gave rise to some amusing comment. This revival of the topic, however, quickened reflections of another and a better nature in my mind; and, as soon as I found a favourable opportunity, I respectfully pressed both Lord and Lady Huntingdon to inform me, whether they had ever really entertained any serious idea of a pretension to the dormant Earldom. Perceiving the earnest manner in which the question was put, his Lordship entered into a brief detail of circumstances, the sum of which was, that, in consequence of his having been sent so early to sea, and his long absence on foreign service, he knew, or remembered, but little of his family history or connexions, and that the only information on which he was disposed to place any reliance, was what he obtained from his uncle, the Reverend Theophilus Hastings, Rector of Great and Little Leke,

who had always sedulously endeavoured to impress on his mind, that he was the real and undoubted heir to the title. He further acquainted me that, some time in the year 1803, he had visited the College of Arms in London, for the purpose of learning the proper steps to be taken, and the probable expenses of the process; but having been then told that, at least, three thousand guineas would be necessary towards his success, he abandoned the idea till some more auspicious moment. In stating these particulars, his Lordship added, that, notwithstanding the assertions of his uncle, it was possible he might not be in any wise entitled, and therefore objected to my investigating his claim, as it might produce no other results than eventually ruining his fortune, creating mirth at his expense, and incurring the censure and derision of his highly respectable connections. Lady Huntingdon, on this occasion, also related to me the story of the "old Reverend's" whimsical marriage, together with many interesting circumstances concerning the family, and particularly the hatred he at all times expressed against the Marquis of Hastings, which her Ladyship described as irreconcilable.

As I had taken the determination, upon these data, to inspect the pretensions of his Lordship more minutely, and had already conceived somewhat sanguine expectations of success from what I had just learned, I gave him, on his departure from Dublin for the country, the draft of a letter, which, I trusted, would satisfy him that my intentions were liberal, requesting that he would write a similar one, after his arrival at Enniskillen, and direct it to me. This he accordingly did; and as this document may not be considered uninteresting, I subjoin a copy of it:—

“ My dear Nugent,

“ Enniskillen, July 1, 1817.

“ I will pay you all costs in case you succeed in proving me the legal heir to the Earldom of Huntingdon. If not, the risk is your own, and I certainly will not be answerable for any expense you may incur in the course of this investigation. But I pledge myself to assist you, by letters and whatever information I can collect, to the utmost of my power ; and remain ever sincerely yours, &c.

“ F. HASTINGS.”

“ Nugent Bell, Esq., 3, Moland-street, Dublin.”

On the back of this letter his Lordship writes, “ By all that’s good you are mad,” so romantic and hopeless did the project then appear in his eyes. In reply, I declared myself perfectly satisfied ; and on the 10th of the same month received a second letter on the business, from which, as it serves further to show his Lordship’s opinion concerning his claim, and may convey some idea of his truly good-humoured disposition, I venture to make an extract or two :—

“ My dear Nugent,

“ Enniskillen, July 8, 1817.

“ Whatever you may prove me to be, I trust you will ever find me an honest man ; but should you establish me in the Earldom, all I can say is, that it will be impossible either for me or mine (and I hope they will have the heart of their father) to do too much for you and yours. I am not sanguine ; but the very names of George, Henry, Ferdinando and Francis, convince me we are the only true descendants of Francis the second Earl.

“ D—n it, succeed, and you shall be my *falconer*.\* If the Countess does not leave Dublin by Tuesday morning, you will certainly see

\* His Lordship here alludes to our mutual propensity for field sports, and to the crest of my family, which is a falcon on a ducal coronet.

me at No. 3, Moland Street, at six o'clock on Wednesday, therefore I beg you will provide for the *Earl* at that hour. I trust your wife is ere this safe in bed of a boy, for a boy it will be I know by her eye. God bless you, and believe me ever yours most truly,

“FRANK.”

This brief and familiar signature, it was his Lordship's custom to adopt on occasions when he was particularly pleased and in high spirits. On Wednesday, as he had intimated, he arrived with us in Dublin, and remained till early in August, when both he and Lady H. returned to Enniskillen. I had written, in the interim, to London, for information, and my correspondent having furnished me with such as he could collect, I lost no time in stating a case, which I laid before my old and highly-esteemed friend, Joseph Jameson of York Street, the father of the North West Bar of Ireland, a gentleman who, to the utmost talent in his profession, adds a heart replete with philanthropy, and to whose able and fatherly counsel I am indebted for no small portion of the success which has crowned my exertions. After perusing and attentively considering this statement, he advised a further investigation, on which I applied to Mr. William Jameson, one of my earliest and most esteemed friends, to accompany me into Leicestershire, in search of that information and those documents so judiciously pointed out as necessary by his learned brother, whom I had consulted. Mr. Jameson, who had a very high esteem for Lord Huntingdon, with whom he was personally acquainted, readily accepted my proposal, and having thus secured an able assistant, as well as a most agreeable companion, we sailed from Dublin for Liverpool on the 17th of August, 1817. On the night of the 18th, we arrived in the river Mersey; and, though the night was frightfully dark and stormy, such was our impatience,



that, complying with the solicitations of the boatmen, who came alongside the packet, we put off for land, which we reached about twelve o'clock, after encountering imminent peril, and not without the men having expressed considerable fears for our safety. We proceeded to the Crown Inn, where we remained for the night; and next morning started, on the outside of the coach, all the inside seats being pre-occupied, for Ashby de la Zouch, which place we reached the same night completely drenched through with rain, to which we were exposed in our aërial situation during the day. On the 20th, we set out for Castle Donnington, in order to pay a visit to Mr. Thomas Dalby of that town, a solicitor, who had long been concerned for his Lordship's family, which he had known from his infancy, and from whom, therefore, we flattered ourselves we should be able to obtain information of essential importance to our cause. We had a letter of introduction from my noble client, and, on our arrival at the Turk's Head Inn, at two o'clock, we walked up to Mr. Dalby's snug little cottage, where we found the legal owner about to sit down to dinner. Salutations being passed, I presented my credentials, which he read with elaborate attention, at least I suppose so, as the operation occupied him full a quarter of an hour, though the letter did not contain more than six lines, the substance of which was, that the object of our journey into Leicestershire was to investigate his Lordship's claim to the Earldom of Huntingdon, and that he should feel obliged if Mr. D. would lend us all practicable assistance, which, from being so long concerned for himself and his family connexions, he expected Mr. D. would be found inclined, and qualified, to do. Mr. Dalby, who is a cautious man, after taking up the aforesaid space of time to read, re-read, and counter-read his Lordship's letter, as if it had been composed of hieroglyphics, at length, putting his face on the defensive, observed, that indeed he had no papers which could assist us;

heard some foolish talk about the claim of his Lordship's family, but knew nothing further of the matter: after he had dined, however, would do himself the pleasure of waiting on us at our inn, and, before he came down, would look out some papers, which he feared could do us little service, but such as they were, if he could find them, we should have them, and welcome. This qualified declaration put an end to the interview, and almost to our hopes from that quarter. We returned to our host, whose nice and well-dressed dinner amply compensated for Mr. D.'s formal reception, so remote from our Hibernian ideas of hospitality. The Turk's Head Inn is kept by a Mr. Oldershaw, whose attention to the comfort of his customers is unremitting; and I am bound to say that, during our stay at his house, we met with every civility, and experienced the best accommodation, as I myself have, at various times since, when business called me to the beautiful village of Castle Donnington. Shortly after we had dined, Mr. Dalby, according to promise, made his appearance, taking care first, as I afterwards learned, to make a call at Donnington Park, where the Marchioness of Hastings then was, attended by Sir Charles Hastings, the natural son of the late Earl, and the Reverend Mr. Dalby, brother of our Solicitor. Thus doubly prepared, having swallowed both his dinner and his cue, he appeared quite a new man, the logical *chevaux de frize* of his features relaxing into somewhat of a negotiating attitude, and lighted up by a well-coined smile. Being seated, he proceeded with much circumspection and solemnity to draw forth from his pocket a paper, which he handled with so much apparent caution before it was exposed to our vision, that a bye-stander might have fairly suspected it to be a packet of that species of chemical powder which ignites by friction or exposure to the air. At length, when we half expected a detonation, this monstrous birth saw the world's light, and we beheld a fragment of greasy paper, with some half score of names scrawled on it

in the likeness of a pedigree, which, we were forthwith informed with appropriate gravity, was a Genealogical Table prepared by the late Mr. Blunt, a professional gentleman, who, during his life time, practised in that town with considerable success. Well, the production might possibly have been a pedigree, but, by some awkward fatality, it wanted the generic signs of a head and a tail. The ingenious compiler, like the strolling manager who once advertised the tragedy of Hamlet for representation, with the trifling omission of the young prince's character, completely left out his Lordship, his father, his grandfather, and great grandfather, four very important personages, as the reader will be inclined to acknowledge. This mutilated thing, however, in the then early stage of the proceedings, might, we deemed, prove of some value to us, and we were converting it in imagination to our own use, and had begun to return our thanks for the favour, when we found we were reckoning without our host, as Mr. D. dexterously re-deposited the document in the bottom of his pocket, drily observing, that he had no right whatever to part with the same. The expansive influence of a little wine, however, added to a few good-humoured entreaties, afterwards procured me permission to take a copy, which I did in great haste lest little Tommy might repent and prevent me. From the imperfect information it contained I was not enabled, after all, to tell any thing definite of his Lordship's descent, and perhaps never would have attained that knowledge had not our landlord, through the facility which key-holes afford, got a hint of what was on the tapis, which was not lost upon him. He fairly told me he knew the business I was come about, and that he believed he could put me in the way of obtaining information of material consequence. "You must know, Sir," continued Oldershaw, "that near this place, say the matter of six miles, lives a poor gentleman of the name of Needham, who, it is believed, has a drop of the blood of the Plantagenets in him. He is a relation

of the family of Hastings, I believe by marriage, and now resides in a small cottage in Belton. As the weather is so fine, I think you and your friend would find it pleasant to walk across the fields to the village, where you will easily find his house : and if I mistake not, he can tell you more in an hour, than you are likely to glean here in a twelvemonth," nodding his head significantly. We expressed our thanks for the information thus obligingly communicated by our host, and determined to avail ourselves of it early on the following morning. The remaining part of that evening we devoted to a walk in Donnington Park, with the view of which, its noble old mansion, delicious grounds, and beautiful situation, we were quite delighted. A sentiment of melancholy stole upon my mind when I reflected on the comparative circumstances of the excluded family, whose rights we came to assert ; and, in that moment's dream of imagination, I seemed to behold the Dryads of these charming groves, and the violated Lares of these antique halls, rejoicing at the purport of our visit. A herd of deer, I well remember, lay close in front of the house ; and we caught, *en passant*, a glimpse of the figures of a lady and two gentlemen, who, we afterwards understood, were the Marchioness and her friends, and who, no doubt, apprised of our arrival, and the nature of our errand, were curious enough to have a peep at such officious intruders.

Next morning we proceeded across the fields, as directed by Oldershaw, and found ourselves in the village of Belton about twelve o'clock ; " the day," says my journal, " extremely hot, and ourselves in no very enviable plight, after a chase of six miles over corn-fields and hedges." Our first object was to find Mr. Needham ; but he being in the fields at some distance, attending his farming concerns, we sent for him, and, in the mean time, waited on William Toone, Esq. commonly called Squire Toone, an old and intimate friend of

Colonel George Hastings. This gentleman, who received us politely, told us, in reply to our inquiries, he had always heard and believed that old Theophilus, the Rector, had a right to the title, but he was too old, and his brother, the Colonel, too ill, to pursue the claim with any chance of success. He said he had known all the Colonel's sons, and was intimate with Frank, the present Earl, whom he thus familiarly distinguished. Mr. Toone referred us for more minute particulars to Mr. Needham, and, after making professions of future service, if necessary, politely wished us safe and successful, but, before we withdrew, intimated to us that he thought us both crazy for coming so far on what he called a wild-goose chase. We now went to Mr. Needham, who had returned from his farm, and welcomed us with very visible pleasure. I examined him attentively, as the chemist would analyze a fragment of mineral ore, in which he sought to detect a vein of gold, liked his manners and countenance, found him intelligent, and, in short, precisely what we wished. From him we learned the particulars of the Colonel's birth, the disastrous accident which deranged his understanding, his generally understood claims to the succession, and the circumstances of his death. He accompanied us to the church-yard, and pointed out the soldier's humble grave, over which I heaved a sigh to his melancholy fate, and, kneeling on the marble slab that protected and identified his dust, took a copy of the simple tribute with which affection had honoured his memory. The church was old, and as shattered as the fortunes of him who lay buried beneath its roof, or those of his kinsman who stood by, a living proof of the vicissitudes of human grandeur. "Good God!" exclaimed my friend, "is it possible that this old man, who is reduced to the necessity of earning his daily pittance by the sweat of his brow, is a descendant of the royal race of Edward, while his noble relative, blessed with affluence

and honours, and basking in the sun-shine of princely favour, allows him to pine in comparative want and wretchedness?" Our venerable guide, wiping away the perspiration, and perhaps a "natural tear" that mingled with it, observed, it was even so, but that, after all, he might be much the happier of the two. Interested by the philosophical resignation he expressed, we listened to his "tale of other times" with much more avidity than to the sapient disquisitions of the legal oracle of Donnington. Mr. Needham described the circumstances of his life in a manner to excite even a stranger's respect and sympathy. The frowns of misfortune had withered his early prospects; and, at the time we found him, he was supporting existence by superintending the culture of turnips, and labouring with his own hands, in the fields of the more wealthy. In this manner did a lineal descendant of the Plantagenets earn his crust, but it was not bitter, for it was that of independence. Seated between Mr. Jameson and me, on a stone bench at his cottage door, he related the events of Colonel Hastings's life as already detailed. He told us he was one of the persons present, when the Colonel, in a fit of insanity, burned the papers confided to his care by the Countess Selina; that the Colonel was son to Henry Hastings, of Lutterworth, whose father, he believed, was a Mr. Richard Hastings of the same place, but as to whose son the latter was, or where buried, he could tell nothing. While we were thus conversing, a respectable looking old man approached, and was called by Mr. Needham, who described him to be Tobias Smith, the faithful servant of the late Colonel, for thirty years previous to his death, during which time he constantly attended his person, and was intimately acquainted with every event, which had occurred in the family within that period. To this person we were indebted for some important additional knowledge. He informed us where the present Earl was born, and also of the births of

his brothers and sisters, with the maiden name of his Lordship's mother and grandmother. He also was present when the Colonel burned the papers already alluded to, and knew they were given to him by the Countess Selina, mother of the late Earl, who died in 1789. He remembered the time when her Ladyship had the Colonel's pedigree investigated, preparatory to his intended marriage with the young Lady Selina, as well as the sudden decease of that amiable lady, and the general sorrow of the whole country on occasion of so melancholy a catastrophe. He described the Colonel's constant visits at Donnington Park, his fraternal intimacy with Earl Francis, their joint education, participated amusements, and frolics of gallantry, in which last, honest Toby himself was often deeply, but unwillingly implicated. The altered feeling at Donnington Park towards the Colonel after his marriage, and as young Lord Rawdon grew in his uncle's esteem, he well recollected. For himself he always thought that his master was heir, by right, to all the family estates and titles, and remembered the astonishment of the country, when the late Earl's will was declared, the current reports of foul play then in every mouth, and the bitter disappointment felt, and strong reprobation of Lord Rawdon's conduct expressed, by the Reverend Theophilus, as well as the rest. In the gradations of social life, from the highest to the humblest point in the scale, there are few characters more deserving of respect and consideration than a superannuated domestic, who has, during a long series of years, discharged his humble but important duties with honesty and fidelity ; and it will be gratifying to benevolence to learn what the worthy fellow further added of himself, " that he was hale and healthy, in his sixty-fifth year, in good service, and enjoyed the kindness and friendly wishes of all his neighbours."

Encouraged by the valuable accession to our stock of information

acquired from these respectable persons, we returned, in improved spirits, to Donnington, where we made enlarged memoranda of all that had passed. Next morning we proceeded to Ashby de la Zouch, and waited on Dr. Prior, of that place. Men's opinions, camelion-like, so frequently take a colour from contiguous objects, from their immediate connexions, their private prejudices or personal interests, that their conduct in many instances is not easily apologized for, otherwise than by a reference to these considerations. For the application of this candid and charitable principle, I found abundant occasion in the progress of my inquiries. The Doctor was in habits of intimacy with Sir C. Hastings, of Wellesley Hall, and, probably, calculating on the homely, but wholesome old maxim in the doctrine of chances, that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," seemed quite on his guard lest he should commit himself by advancing me one step in my search. Indeed his reception of me, as the Bailie Jarvie would say, was "the north side of friendly." At first, he professed not to remember his former school-fellow and juvenile companion, Frank Hastings, but, after I had refreshed his recollection, he admitted, he did indeed once know such a person, whom, however, he thought dead long since. He hoped I would be successful, but, for his part, he could not charge his memory with a single circumstance likely to prove of service to the cause. Finding I was only cracking blind nuts, I took my leave of the Doctor, with feelings pretty much the same as those of Sir Oliver Surface\* towards his charitable nephew Joseph, and proceeded to the house of the Vicar, "a man, take him for all in all, I hope I ne'er shall look upon his like again." Although, on explaining my errand, he appeared to conceive me more a visionary than Don Quixote when he attacked the windmills, he gave me access to the archives of the parish, and

\* In the character of old Stanley, in the *School for Scandal*.



even said, in the way one sometimes humours a joke, that he would assist my search. Having made the necessary extracts, we set out for Lutterworth, and copied the entries in the registry of that place also. In the church-yard here we met with an old resident of the village, upwards of eighty years of age, who remembered the grandfather of the present Earl, and heard him always styled Lord Hastings in the latter part of his life, under the general impression then existing, that he was the next heir to the title and estates. From Lutterworth we advanced to Welford, where I sought the grave of his Lordship's great-grandfather, and the registry of his burial, and then proceeded to Leicester. Next morning, August the 26th, leaving my friend Jameson at Leicester, I went on alone to Loughborough, to seek for the registry of the burial of Henry Hastings, late of Castle Donnington, who, Mr. Needham informed me he had heard, was interred at that place. On my arrival I waited on the Rector, the Reverend Dr. Hardy, who unites the dignified deportment of the pastor, with the affable manners which distinguish the hospitable gentry of Leicestershire. This gentleman was exceedingly civil; and, to a search which he made for me with great diligence, he obligingly added the favour of his old Clerk's information, which was of considerable use. The Clerk, who was nearly eighty years of age, remembered the funeral of Henry Hastings, from his extreme corpulence, commonly called Fat Harry, and knew he was buried in the church-yard under the sun-dial, but that his tomb-stone had been broken. He said "he recollected his coffin very well; it was all covered with finery, and any two ordinary sized corpses could have lain in it quite comfortable to the day of judgment, for the matter of that." I complimented him on his memory and humour, and started back towards Leicester in one of the coaches, which was just passing as I shut the worthy Rector's gate.

I entered the vehicle under feelings of anxious suspense, for still there was, even in my client's descent, much that remained unexplained. I had, it is true, got up as far as his great grandfather, but higher, it seemed to me, I would never, without the intervention of some obliging ghost, or charitable deity, be able to ascend. In this state of mental perplexity, it might be naturally imagined I was not much disposed for conversation, but the fact was not so. If I was doomed to "burst in ignorance," I resolved it should not be for lack of inquiries. Accordingly, the moment I was comfortably, or uncomfortably seated, for in truth I took no cognizance of my corporal ease at the moment, I assailed a fellow-traveller with a torrent of cockney or dandy questions concerning the neighbouring gentry; but this agreeable soul only replied by an impatiently ejaculated "d—n," discharging in the same breath, full in my face, a volumed whiff of his pipe, which he smoked all the while, with Turkish rapture and taciturnity. The next person I accosted was one of the *Impregnable*s, an old maid of the first water, who stopped me short with—"La, Sir, hang your noisy inquisitiveness; don't you see my dear little puppy is sick"—at the same time embracing, with edifying affection, the ugliest, half-starved specimen of the whole canine tribe. Unsubdued by these repeated repulses, I still returned to the charge, and now tried my powers on a third passenger of rather more inviting appearance, who excused himself with a laconic observation, "that he *never* meddled with *no* affairs that did *not* belong to him." Having thus failed in all my experiments on my inside companions, I determined, notwithstanding such a run of ill luck, to try my fortunes in a more exalted sphere, among the tenants of the roof, which I mounted accordingly. Possessed in my new birth of as much comfort as a hard board and scanty allowance of straw could furnish, I drew on my invention, and sported a little of the traveller's talent, in the hope that I might excite in some of the audience a

correspondent communicative disposition. The coachman was a good-humoured, obliging fellow, and, if I knew his name, I would immortalize him by inserting it here among much more noble, though I will not say honester, company. However, he knew nothing connected with the object of my pursuit, nor did any one of my fellow passengers.

It was now about twelve o'clock, and what latitude I was then in, I pledge my historical veracity to you, sympathizing and complaisant reader, I was completely ignorant of; but, just as my spirits were about to go to pieces amidst the quicksands of disappointment, a flag hove in sight, which I hastened to hail, and in less than ten minutes, we came alongside an old woman in a market-cart!—Now, all ye guiding and guardian powers, blind or all-seeing, slippery or steadfast, said to preside over the fortunes of men, teach me to do due honour to your own sagacity and wise administration in this matter, by faithfully relating the propitious chance, that led to, and ultimately ensured, my noble client's success. When I came near enough to have a perfect view of the old woman's countenance, there was something written in every line of it, which inspired respect, and impressed a belief, that the mind indexed there had more than ordinary claims to attention. I soon perceived her little vehicle contained a spare chair, which, through I know not what whimsical impulse, I as instantly longed to occupy. In fact, I believe the same Providence, whose decrees embrace the fall of a sparrow, will be often found at the bottom even of our apparent whims. I addressed her with the familiar epithet of "Dear Mother," stating that the heat of the sun, added to the agitation of the coach, had put me in a fever, which I feared would increase if she would not have the charity to bestow the vacant seat on her son, at least so long as our journey might lie the same way. Upon this the old lady, turning up her spectacles to the required altitude, gazed at me with

earnest surprise ; and I, on my part, to prepossess her as much as possible, mustered up every spark of good humour in my composition, and looked so kindly on her little black bob-tailed poney, so wistfully on the blue stuff bottom of the empty chair, which seemed to ride so much at its ease beside her, that she could not withstand the appeal ; and “ My dear son,” said she, pointing expressively to the seat, “ this old chair is perfectly at your service, if you will deign to accept its support, and I wish, with all my heart, the change you seem to contemplate may be of use to you.” Quite unprepared for so gentle an address, I repeated the words used by my sentimental countryman under circumstances not very dissimilar,—“ Life is too short to be long about the forms of it,”—and so, instead of balancing about the invitation till the superior celerity of our machine whirled me out of reach, I leaped at once from my elevated situation into the cart with so much eagerness, that it was a mercy my feet did not find their way through its bottom. The materials, however, were sufficiently solid to resist the shock, but, not being quite accustomed to such abrupt visitations, had the unceremoniousness, by an elastic jerk or re-action, to project my person over the sides of the vehicle, fairly spilling me on the pavement. I hastily scrambled to my legs again, shaking the dust from my shoulders, and made a shift to re-ascend the cart, tendering the best apologies I could for my intrusion, as well as awkwardness, to its fair possessor, who, on her part, offered as many in return, blaming herself for not having kept a tighter hold of old Dobbin’s reins. Thus this Lady of the Cart and I commenced an acquaintance, which I shall always remember with gratitude and pleasure. After she had drummed the dust from my coat, which she did so effectually as almost to reduce my aching shoulders to a paste, we entered into some desultory conversation on the weather, the crops, and the state of the poor. From

these standard popular topics I led her insensibly to the families of distinction, residing along our route ; and then, as if struck by some sudden recollection, asked her, was not Leicester the county long famous for having given birth to the illustrious House of Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon ? Scarce had I pronounced the name, ere I found it was a chord I might touch till doomsday without tiring the patience of my companion. “ Good Lord ! Sir,” she exclaimed, “ you are entirely too young to remember any thing of that great, but unfortunate family.” “ Unfortunate ! good mother ; I never heard of any misfortune, which attached particularly to the House of Hastings.” “ Bless you ! may be not ; but I hear you London folk, excuse me, have got very little heart, and some say, none at all.” “ Nay, do not believe that ; but tell me what were the misfortunes to which you allude, or, if the recital be painful, or that you are not at liberty to relate the story to a stranger, why let us turn the conversation to some more agreeable subject.” This, it may be readily imagined, was very far from my wishes, and I trembled lest, by her compliance, I should lose the opportunity of hearing that which I might be said literally to have burned to know. My apprehensions, however, were soon removed when she replied, “ No, no Sir, not so. Though it may, indeed, give me some pain to revive the recollection of those matters, yet it will also afford my memory a kind of melancholy pleasure to talk over the virtues of the dead. Lord love you, Sir, I knew the family you mention for fifty years past, and that too most intimately, with all their concerns, and a frightful desolation now hovers round the towers that sheltered them through many a century of honour and magnificence.” Here, by an involuntary impulse of curiosity, I drew closer to my interesting historian, who pursued her narrative nearly in the following words—for I would not, through any fastidious notions about style, weaken the original tact,

raciness, and *naïveté* of her manner. "You must know, Sir, that some fifty years ago, I was considered by the country folks a very pretty girl. I don't say this out of vanity, but it may be necessary for you to know it, that you may better understand what is to follow. At the age of fourteen I was taken into the service of Lady Ann Hastings, sister of my late Lord's father, who, in less than two months after, consigned me over to young Lady Selina, her niece, and second daughter of the late Countess Selina, that doating old Methodist lady, whom God forgive for throwing away her fortune on such blood-suckers, and leaving those entitled to it by the laws of nature and relationship quite penniless, as one may say. But let me proceed straight forward. I was caressed by my sweet young Lady, whom I constantly attended as her own maid, and I had every reason to bless my good fortune in having got so good a mistress. Why, Lord love you, Sir, her Ladyship thought as much of having me tidy and nice and servant-like, as I, on my part, was anxious to please her in all things. We soon grew so fond of each other, that if her finger but ached, I would cry my eyes out; and if I chanced to be sick, she would sit by me for hours together. Well, I was as happy sure as the day was long, as Donnington Park, at that time, was one of the most delightful places in the world, there being constant company, numerous strange servants, and continual bustle. Before my Lady was twenty, she was reckoned one of the finest creatures in the whole county, and many great Lords, I am sure, would have been proud of her hand; but, my dear Sir, there was other fish to fry. Some time before this, my late Lord's father had brought to Donnington Park the late Colonel George Hastings, then a boy; and as it may be you never heard of him, I will tell you who he was. His father was a Mr. Henry Hastings, of a place not many miles off, called Lutterworth, who, previous to his death, and in his

old age, was called Lord Hastings ; I'll tell you why, by and by. I have heard say that this Mr. Harry was left an orphan, when he was only fourteen years old, and that his guardians and executors, appointed by his father's will, robbed him of almost all he was worth, and a good fortune he was left too, they say. These rogues ran off out of the country, and the Colonel's father being then too young to protect his rights, was left, I may say, desolate, until the late Earl's father, hearing of the business, set affairs to rights as well as he could, and gave, I believe, 1000*l.* to his wronged kinsman. It is at least certain that, within my own memory, he lived very happily at his house in Lutterworth, and latterly took very well with being called Lord Hastings, which was no empty title you may rely on it, his children having as much right to it as I have to the gown on my back, as you will be convinced of presently. Well, as the Earl thought his boys would be better under his Lordship's own eye, he sent the eldest, who was late the Rector of Great and Little Leke, to Sir George Wheeler, his brother-in-law, to be educated by him, which he was ; and the Colonel, his brother, was brought to the Park altogether. Lord knows, he was as wild and frolicsome as a mountain kid, but my Lord did not think him the worse for that ; and as he was very handsome and obliging, he became a great favourite with all the family, particularly the women part of it. I must acknowledge, Sir, though I can now join the laugh against my own girlish folly and presumption, I then loved him very dearly, and many a sorrowful night has his image cost me. He knew I liked him, and he often said, through the goodness of his nature, that if he were rich and independent, and I of a higher family, he would make me his wife, but as it was, there could be no hopes. So having told me his mind like a man of truth, I endeavoured to reason myself out of my folly, though I liked him better than ever. He always after

treated me as a kind of sister, which, I remember, was a great consolation to me. (Here she reverted to the story of the carpenter, and the burning of his tools, which it is not necessary to repeat.) After some time, my Lord got the Colonel his first commission; and the late Earl, then quite young, was very much attached to him, as they were, I may say, educated together. They were constant companions in every amusement, though no two could be more unlike in their persons, the young Lord being—but, Lord rest him! he is dead. I will only say, he was a perfect foil for the young soldier, who was, as Mr. Dawson the steward used to say, a lad of great promise. The family becoming every day more fond of him, at length, after the old Earl had been a good while dead, it entered into the head of the Countess Dowager, to whose sermonizing the Colonel used to listen with great patience, while thinking of something else, to unite my dear Lady Selina and him in marriage. I well remember the hurly-burly there was on that occasion. Dawson was sent, together with a lawyer, whose name, I believe, was Blunt, to hunt after the Colonel's pedigree through the country." (Here I became interested to a great degree, and begged to know, whether she recollected the names of the places, to which they had recourse for the desired information, to which she replied in the affirmative, and mentioned among others, Humberston, Welford, and St. Mary's in Leicester, places, where I afterwards found information absolutely essential to my success, although I should never have dreamed of recurring to such a quarter, but for my fair *Comnina*\* of the cart.) "Well," resumed my honest chronicler, "every thing turned up to the very height of the family's wishes; and on the return

\* Anna Comnina was daughter of the Emperor Alexius Comninus; and wrote a History of the Life of her Father, in which she attacked the spiritual sovereignty of the Roman Pontiff.



of Mr. Dawson to the Park, he declared the late old Reverend Theophilus, the Colonel's brother, to be heir to the title of Huntingdon, in case any thing should happen the then Earl, and after him, if he failed children, the Colonel next heir of course. There was great joy in the house the day Dawson returned. It was on a May evening, I well remember, and my dear young Lady and I were sitting over a piece of work in her boudoir, when a servant came to tell her that the lawyer and Mr. Dawson were below with her mother, the Countess. The colour suddenly fled from her cheeks, and, if I had not assisted her, I think she would have fainted. All this time I was quite ignorant of the matter in agitation, but knew it time enough to my great sorrow. The news soon spread that the Colonel and his brother were the next male heirs to the title, and that the former was to be married to my young Lady immediately. Lord! Lord! the folly of young people. It vexes me yet, when I reflect what a presumptuous fool I was. Mr. George still ran in my head, and, somehow or other, I used to indulge myself in the ridiculous hope of being one day his wife. But where were all my castles of smoke and paper, think you, when I heard this news? I was like to go distracted, and I ran to the Clift Wood, where I remained crying till nine o'clock that night. I remember I said my prayers before I returned to the house; and seeing every one in joy, I suspected I should not be much minded; so I slipped off to bed, and there reasoned with myself. Well, thank God, and my parents, who, though humble, brought me up well, I saw my weakness, and that, by exposing it, I would lose the kindest of mistresses, might offend my friend the Colonel, and get laughed at and despised by every body into the bargain. So I kept up wonderfully well considering, pretended to be delighted, and saw clearly that Lady Selina loved her intended husband full as well as I could do for my life. Nothing now was heard of but rejoicings. Lady Anne, who

was then an old maid, became quite obliging and interested in the match, and Miss Wheeler, her friend, as unbearable on the other hand, lest she should lose her Ladyship's fortune, which she at that time expected to inherit. But none were more highly delighted with all this, than the tenantry; and, between ourselves, if they had not expressed themselves so warmly on this and other occasions afterwards, I am pretty sure, from what has since happened, the Colonel would have been a gainer by it. Well, Sir, if you could have seen the Colonel at this time, he seemed a very king, a prince of gentlemen! Adored by all the gentry, and by all the people within twenty miles round; sure of a fine fortune; about to be married to the sweetest young lady in England, and with a fair chance, from the plainness of my Lord's person, of having the title and all at a future day; though, to say the truth, I believe he never troubled himself about thinking of this last matter. Whether he suspected what I felt I know not. His civilities towards me were the same, and he one day promised, if I felt so inclined, that I should, after his marriage, continue with my mistress, for which I was very thankful, having then in a great measure recovered my senses. But, alas! Sir, as the Scripture says, there is nothing certain in this life. It was about the middle of May, the year I do not remember, but it is full fifty years ago, that the marriage was fixed to take place between the Colonel and my Lady. He was in the full bloom of life: she was just old enough to conduct herself steadily; and I was not more than fifteen odd, if so much. It was at this moment that an awful intervention of Providence put an end to all our joys in a moment. I remember the fatal day. It was dark, with the appearance of a thunder storm, but unusually sultry; and the Colonel went out with the gamekeeper to shoot, whether rails or conies it does not signify. My Lord was not at home, and my Lady, the intended bride, was engaged all the day sorting her dresses, in which I was

assisting. About five o'clock the Colonel returned, and he had not been five minutes in the house when the storm began. He was congratulating himself on his good fortune, when he perceived my Lady suddenly growing pale and sick. I ran for salts and Hungary water to her boudoir. On my return I found the Colonel supporting her in his arms. She was trying to speak. I called for help and endeavoured to unlace her, but before any assistance could arrive she expired. . . . I have no power," continued my narrator, after a pause of grief, and her eyes swimming in tears, "to describe the scene that followed. The deepest distress, that perhaps ever visited human hearts, was felt by the family at Donnington Park; and when my darling mistress was laid in the grave, every member of it might have been said to be buried with her. As for the Colonel, his feelings were all stunned. He knew nobody. Even I could scarce prevail on him to eat the smallest morsel of food. He wasted to a very shadow; and I fear his health and reason sustained a shock at that time, which helped to increase his mental disease on a future day. But, Sir, we have not much further to travel together, so I must be brief. Time wore on. Lord Rawdon, the present Marquis of Hastings, was then a nice boy, and the Earl, his uncle, grew every day more fond of him. The Colonel used to carry him about every where, teach him the use of the sword, and a thousand little matters. Indeed he was, as one may say, his principal tutor, until it became necessary to put him under more proper government. He was a very generous child, and if you flattered him would do any thing, but was not so easy to manage in any other way. The Colonel resided chiefly at the Park, but sometimes at Belton, when he was not engaged with his officer business. However, my Lord having gone to visit foreign parts, and I having, by the advice of my friends, married a very prudent and industrious young man, who has always been the best of husbands to me, I of course removed, and

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the distance prevented me from knowing much more of the Colonel's affairs, except when he came into our neighbourhood. He would then do me the honour of calling at my cottage, put me in mind of past times, and treat me with the greatest kindness. At last he married a very beautiful young lady, as I have heard, and had four sons, who, sorry I am to say it, are all dead, and, except the eldest, all came to an unlucky end. Master Frank was the eldest, but he died at Grantham in his sixth year; Master Ferdy, or Ferdinando, and his elder brother Henry, for whom the Duchess of Cumberland stood god-mother, were sent out officers to the West Indies, and both died there of the yellow fever. The fourth and youngest son, and, as I have been told, one of the finest young men of the family, was drowned about three years ago in the Cove of Cork, on the Irish coast, a circumstance which gave great concern to many well-wishers of his father here, and no small joy to those, who have had the iniquity to chouse him and his out of their just inheritance." Here the old lady, in conclusion, gave vent to her feelings with much bitterness, and entered upon topics which I feel it proper to suppress for the present, reserving the remainder of her disclosures for a future occasion. After I had patiently heard her out, I, in my turn, informed her that the person, according to her account, supposed to have been drowned in the Cove of Cork, was still alive and happy, and that it was by no means improbable she would soon see that son of her *quondam* lover the Colonel, in possession of at least the honours of his family. At this news her joy was so excessive, that she fairly hugged me with rapture,—a sort of compliment which perhaps I should have received with more ardour and gratitude had she been fifty years younger. We had now arrived opposite the Three Cranes Inn in Leicester, where my friend Jameson, somewhat anxiously, waited dinner for me, and I descended from my rustic vehicle

to his no small entertainment and surprise. I pressingly invited the fair charioteer to partake of some refreshment, which she politely declined, on the plea of being expected to dinner by one of her daughters. We thereupon most cordially 'shook hands, and parted, not without my having obtained her fervent blessings, and prayers for my success.

Mr. Jameson was highly amused with the history of an adventure, which fortunately afforded us many valuable hints towards the object in view. That no time might be lost in improving such hints, and as it occurred to me that the old lady would naturally relate in her family what had passed, and hence, perhaps, undue means be resorted to from some inimical quarter for the removal, if not destruction, of certain important records, to which her narrative bore relation, I ordered a chaise immediately after dinner, and, in less than two hours from the time I parted with her, set out again in quest of the treasures, of whose existence she had apprized me. My first visit was to a church not many miles from Leicester. On my arrival, I enquired for the residence of the parish clerk, and found the poor fellow in a miserable hovel, not a whit superior to the mud edifices of my mountaineer countrymen. I requested him to produce the parish register, but he told me I could not then see it, "as how the parson lived seven miles off, and never came but early of a Sunday morning, when he read prayers, and was off again in a trice." Finding it impossible to procure a glimpse at the register for that time, I next begged the favour of this canonical echo's company as far as the church, that I might inspect two or three tombstones, which I understood were placed in the chancel. Amen gazed on me with a face of deprecation and amazement; and, after a pause to give distinctness to his response, asked, "Pray, sir, may I ax what countryman you be? I am sure you beant of

our parish, or you would not be in such a hurry to go to church this time o' the night."—"And why not, my friend?" demanded I. "Why," exclaimed he, "no one in his senses would venture, that's all; though I believe there's nothing in the stories I have heard since I was a boy."—"Stories! what stories do you mean?"—"Why, as how you see, one Hastings, a warrior in *Holiver Cromwell's* time, canters about a marble horse of his over the grave-stones at night. He was sequestrified by the Parliament in those times, which, they say, sticks in his gizzard to this hour. Lord, bless us! Sam Caxton told me not five days ago, that he rattled one of the tomb-stones you mention into ten thousand pieces; howsomdever, that was no very hard matter to do, as it was of a slaty substance."—"Well, but did you examine this stone," said I, "in order to ascertain the truth?"—"Aye, that I did, and the fact was so, sure enough."—"Do you know who was buried beneath it?"—"No, not I; but my old father, who has been clerk here nearly sixty years, perhaps, can tell, that is, if he remembers any thing about it, which, I much doubt, by reason that he is so old and deaf." This, thought I, would be esteemed a good specimen of Irish reasoning. I inquired where the old man lived, and again requested the clerk to accompany me; but this he declined till morning, at the same time offering me a sort of substitute for a lamp, and the keys, "if as how I wished to go a ghost-hunting alone." I asked him where the equestrian statue stood, of which he seemed so much in awe; but he informed me, that it now existed only in the traditions of the country folks, the original having been long since tumbled down, and afterwards destroyed. Finding I could not prevail on him to attend me, I accepted the light and keys, and proceeded to the church. It stood at a considerable distance from my chaise, in which the driver, in the mean time,

had thought proper to fall asleep, leaving the vehicle to the discretion of his horses, who were quietly eating their corn. The rain fell plentifully; and it was not without some ingenuity that I succeeded in preserving the ewer full of kitchen-stuff, which served me for a lamp, from being extinguished. At last, I entered the sacred walls, without any great fear of being encountered by the Knight of the Marble Horse. The church is an old and rude building, with uncouth ornaments, at least so they then appeared by the dusky illumination afforded me. The floor was covered with matting, and therefore I passed on undisturbed by the reverberation of my own footsteps. I had no difficulty in tracing out the spot, where the marble horse had shattered the tomb-stone, as reported; and I certainly did find that the damage alluded to had really been done; but when, or by what means or accident, I have never been able to discover. In the corner of the chancel I found a broom, and a small heap of rubbish, consisting of lime and fragments of stone, which, it occurred to me, might have constituted part of the tomb in its original state. To work therefore I went upon this probability, and, seating myself on a rush mat, I poked among the dust and rubbish, and collected together all the pieces, that appeared to have composed the inscription. These formed a novel kind of puzzle, which cost me no small study to connect; and I do honestly believe it would have been easier to solve one of the cramest problems in Euclid, than to re-arrange these *disjecti membra* in intelligible order. However, I at length succeeded in taking the exact words inscribed on this "thing of shreds and patches," together with a sketch of the whole as a drawing, which fully answered my purpose. My faculties were so absorbed in this precious job, that the time passed without my attending either to the lateness of the hour, or to the storm which grappled the roof

and windows with such violence, as might have set the bells a ringing. I was roused from this lethargy at last, by conceiving, that I really did hear a bell toll. Somewhat startled at the imaginary summons, I hastily looked round, but all was dreary and dark, save the dimly luminous circle, of which my lamp formed the centre. Above my head, hung some tattered armorial banners, which had been placed, more than a century before, over the graves of the illustrious dead, for whose posterity I came to seek justice. I gathered up my papers, closed my memorandum book, and was about to rise from the posture I was then in, which I remember was a kneeling one, when I experienced one of the most horrible sensations it has ever fallen to the lot of my nerves to encounter. I distinctly felt a warm living breath poured upon my cheek, and shaking my hair, which I suppose already "stood on end, like quills upon the fretful porcupine," half petrified, I turned round, expecting to see nothing less than the Knight of the Marble Charger, nodding down, in horrid complaisance, at me, another, but innocent, Don Juan; when, lo! my eyes met the benevolent and inquisitive gaze, not of sheeted spectre, or life-assuming statue, but of *bond-fide* blood and bone, in their most honest and unalarming shape, an ass! This respectable animal, whose species is so often libelled by comparison with human stolidity, belonged to the clerk, and was grazing in the church-yard, when, invited by the light, and the open door, he possibly promised himself the double pleasure of inspecting whatever might be going forward, and, at the same time, of finding a shelter for the night. The floor of the church being, as I before observed, covered with matting, he stole upon my lucubrations as softly as if, like King Lear's troop of horse, he had been "shod with felt." As my scanty allowance of light did not at first enable me to determine to what class of created things the donkey belonged, and as he declined



answering a very respectful, and, indeed, pious, interrogatory, put by me to that effect, I began to feel the prudence of decamping with all convenient speed out of such company, when raising the lamp, in furtherance of that purpose, I caught a full view of his outline, and convincing longitude of ear. Finding that the intruder came in such an unquestionable shape, I resolved he should pay for his peeping, and, brandishing the aforesaid broomstick, I forthwith laid it on his "leathern coat," with such an unsparing hand, that at length the "patient endurance," for which that family are so famed, gave way, and, Parthian-like, he discharged a volley of heels with so much force at my breast, that, had he succeeded in making his intentions tell, I, in all probability, should now be in "the tomb of all the Capulets," and the whole adventure lost in oblivion, to the great disappointment of posterity. However, I was not destined to fall by such inglorious weapons. The blow fell short of the vital mark, and expended its vengeance on my lamp, the remains of which it dashed full in my face, thus putting out my light and my eyes both together, and leaving me to grope for egress in such manner as it might please God. Under these circumstances, I stood on no further ceremony, but scampered off, well wet, worse greased, and, perhaps, not a little frightened. I was rejoiced again to see my old friend the Clerk, who, all this time, had been snugly asleep, and got up in his shirt to receive the keys. After assuring him that I had supped with the Knight of the Marble Horse, and had been introduced to Belzebub and suite, I wished him and his ass at the devil, thrust a few shillings into his assenting palm, and hurried to my vehicle, which I re-entered with no small satisfaction.

On my return to the inn, I stole to bed, concealing the whole adventure, and next morning returned to the charge, reinforced by my friend. The Parson happening to be then in attendance, we

gained admission to the registry, and having obtained from him certificates of the necessary entries, which, as far as I can judge from appearances, he granted with not a little reluctance, we pursued our journey to Welford, in Northamptonshire, and arrived at the Talbot Inn, in that town, about four o'clock, the same day. We inspected the parish registry there, from which we secured a faithful abstract of the burial of Richard Hastings, great grandfather of the present Earl, and examined every old tomb in the cemetery for further information. I conversed, at this place, with a very old man of the name of Wallace, who told me he remembered Henry Hastings, the grandfather of his Lordship, and that he was called Lord Hastings, in consequence of the general reputation of the country that he and his sons, in failure of issue in the reigning branch, were next heirs to the title of Huntingdon. Here also I learned some curious particulars concerning the manner in which the executors of Richard Hastings had disposed of the property bequeathed by him to his son Henry; but as they might affect the present possessors, and as the property may become matter of future litigation, I will, for the present, pass over the subject in silence.

Mustering all our force of evidence thus far detailed, we now started from Welford for London; and on the 4th of September, Mr. Jameson and I found ourselves in this vast metropolis, provided with materials, which we conceived, at that time, sufficient to enable us to state a case, for the opinion of eminent counsel, but which, as afterwards appeared, were very inadequate for that purpose. However, as we scarce hoped ever to discover any other branches of the family in addition to such as were then in our hands, though there actually were no less than twenty-four other descendants to account for, we set about preparing a case, which we

determined to submit to the much-lamented Sir Samuel Romilly. This eminent lawyer, and amiable man, was then at Tanhurst, near Dorking, in the county of Surrey, having retired to that beautiful retreat, his Tusculum, for a short time from the drudgery of business; and thither I resolved to pursue him. When the case was made out, and approved of by Mr. Jameson, he thought proper to relinquish any further professional agency in the business, deeming it a sort of impossibility that, under the circumstances in which the succession was placed, we could ever succeed; and actuated by the conscientious and honourable principle, which has always been the rule of his practice, that it was unjust to squander a client's money, without any rational prospect of success. Accordingly, on the 5th of September, he set out on his return to Dublin, and left the field to me, single-handed, and total stranger, as I then was, in London.

As I had not the same cause for professional scruples on a pecuniary score, that Mr. Jameson had, the money expended being in advance from my own purse, and at my own risk, under the terms of my original engagement to Lord Huntingdon, and as in fact I was always sanguine in my hopes of success, I went boldly on; and the same hour that my friend parted for Ireland, I stepped into the coach for Dorking, where I arrived late on the same evening. I learned, by making inquiries at the inn, that Sir Samuel intended to leave Tanhurst at seven o'clock next morning for Bowwood, another country seat of his, and I therefore determined to be early enough with him. I arose before five, and proceeded in a chaise and four to his house, which I reached a few minutes after seven o'clock. On asking to see that inestimable man, I was shown into an elegant apartment, and was informed by a servant that Sir Samuel was strolling about the grounds, whence he would very shortly return. In a few minutes after, the door opened, and in stalked a long,

gaunt, figure, without a cravat; his stockings ungartered, and wet with "brushing the dews away;" and he evidently had not used a hat that morning. Notwithstanding the derangement of his dress, I could not be mistaken in the man. There was a sort of deep, searching look, peculiar to him, which seemed to demand the business of every man who waited on him professionally, and therefore I soon felt myself at liberty to enter upon mine. Sir Samuel, with a polite and elegant ease of manner, begged to know what had called me at so early an hour to Tanhurst? I then explained the purport of my visit; entered into some detail of my journey, the success with which it had been so far attended, and my future views, to all which he listened with profound attention, not having once interrupted me. When I had finished my "tale of symptoms," I presented him with the case, with the usual accompaniment, both of which he gently put by with his hand, observing, that "he never took cases." Astonished, confounded, at meeting so unexpected a difficulty, one about which I had never dreamed, I felt I know not what. He was the only English lawyer of eminence of whom I could remember to have ever heard any thing, or, in fact, whose name I knew. Indeed, I could not be said to know a single individual, professional or other, in all England; and my mortification and distress at that moment cannot well be imagined. However, after the first shock of his rebuff was over, plucking up resolution, I ventured to address Sir Samuel, who doubtless visibly saw my emotion, and guessed its cause. "Sir Samuel Romilly," said I, "I have frequently heard your character, and the profound professional abilities you have displayed, and continue to display, talked over in Ireland, with rapture. Impressed, hence, with deep respect for your worth, and high admiration of your talent, I fixed on you in my mind's eye, as my leading counsel in this case, so

dear to my happiness, and so vital to the interests of my friend. Under this determination, I sought you at your house in London; from thence I followed you to Dorking, from Dorking here; and now I have only to add, that, as I value your opinion more than that of any other man on earth, if you refuse to let me have it, d—n me but you will break my heart!" I pronounced these last words with an emphasis, and an earnestness, which real feeling seldom fails to assume, and perhaps there was a sincerity in my manner which pleased him. My accent, though it has not much claim to the *leathern* appellation fastened to the honest, unadulterated, Milesian delivery of my countrymen, at once convinced him I was Irish, and, with one of those smiles which sometimes illumined his intelligent countenance, he familiarly replied, "Well, Paddy, I will." I felt the compliment deeply, and it was enhanced by something of a benevolent condescension, superadded to what was merely official. These few words were uttered with a feeling, which touched every chord of my heart, and, from that moment, I became his sincere well-wisher; and, perhaps, if he now lived to peruse this humble page, to which any memorial of him will impart a dignity, he might not think me presumptuous in adding, his friend. He invited me to stay for breakfast, after which he showed me the house and grounds. He asked me many questions concerning the Irish; their politics, manners; the state of the country; by what means they were most likely to be benefited; and by what measures most distressed; with a volume of other like interrogatories. Before I left his house for London, and he did not seem inclined to part with me in a hurry, he asked when I would expect his opinion on the case? I replied, "To-morrow, or next day, Sir;" at which answer he appeared in no small degree entertained. Perceiving that his pleasantry arose from my expecting it so soon,

I added, "that if he was hurried with business, in the course of a week would do." Sir Samuel smiled, and said, "If I were as rapid in my own movements as I expected others to be, he had no doubt but I should bring my client's case to a *finale* in less time than any man he ever met with would be likely to do." I bowed, and observed, that I should of course be perfectly content to wait his convenience; but, as this was my sole business in London, I felt assured he would attend to it with the least possible delay. At parting, he gave me a letter to deliver in town for him; and I was scarcely a day returned, when I received his opinion, dated two days after I had put the case into his hands, and accompanied with a polite letter, expressing his wishes for my success, and pointing out several things likely to prove conducive to it.

As Sir Samuel's opinion was, on the whole, a favourable one, I instantly set about making the searches for wills, deeds, and other documents, which he advised; and having obtained all he then conceived necessary, I wrote him to that effect, transmitting, at the same time, copies of the papers, together with a genealogical table. In the course of a few days I received the following letter:

"SIR,

"Tanhurst, October 7, 1817.

"I have looked over the pedigree and documents you sent me, and have read the observations you made respecting the wills and administrations of the several persons mentioned in it. It appears to me, that the evidence, which I before thought wanting, has now been supplied by you; and it does not occur to me, at the present moment, that any further search is necessary to be made by you.

"I do not conceive that it will be necessary to employ counsel to prepare the petition, which is to be presented to the Prince

Regent. All that it will be requisite to do in that petition will be to state, that the first Earl was created by letters patent to him, and the heirs male of his body ; and the fact of the death of the last Earl of Huntingdon, having left the petitioner the heir male of the body of the first Earl, surviving him, together with the manner in which he makes out his descent; and to pray, that his Royal Highness would be pleased to give directions, that a writ of summons should issue to call him up to the House of Lords. This, I think, is the form of the petition that should be presented, though I am not very sure of it. However, it will not be of any material importance, if the petition is not according to the usual form. The petition will probably be referred to the Attorney General, who will require to be attended upon it, and to be furnished with the evidence by which the claim is to be supported. This, however, is not, I believe, the course which is always pursued; but the case is referred, in the first instance, to the House of Lords.

“ Though I have been counsel in many claims of peerage, I have never had occasion to consider in what form the claim is first made; and I have here no books I can refer to. You will find, I think, some useful information on the subject, in a small work, published some years ago, by Mr. Cruise, of Lincoln's Inn, on Dignities; and if you have any difficulty how to proceed, I apprehend that, at the Parliament Office, Abingdon-street, Westminster, you may receive the information you may be in want of.

“ I have written to Lord Huntingdon respecting his taking the title; and, though I do not think it of much importance, I have now rather dissuaded him from using it before his claim is established; not that there exists the slightest doubt of his just claim, but merely in consequence of the unwillingness expressed by several to acknowledge him as such. I shall send you the pedigree,

&c. back in a parcel by the coach, it being too heavy to go in a frank without being charged postage.

“ I remain, Sir,

“ Your most obedient and faithful Servant,

“ SAMUEL ROMILLY.”

On perusal of this letter, I proceeded, as therein directed, to the Parliament Office, where I obtained the information necessary in the then stage of the business. Some time previous to this, and during these preparatory operations, the following paragraph, originating probably in some conversation Sir Samuel might have had with his friends on the possibility of Lord Huntingdon's success, appeared in the Globe London Newspaper, of the 6th September, 1817.

“ HUNTINGDON PEERAGE.—It gives us sincere pleasure to hear, that our worthy and highly respected countryman, Hans Francis Hastings, at present residing at Enniskillen, in Ireland, will be called to fill the vacant seat in the Upper House in the next Session of Parliament. Circumstances, which we are not at liberty to mention, have hitherto prevented his accession to the title, which has descended to him through a long race of illustrious ancestors; but every obstacle being now removed, and the necessary documents procured, &c. his Lordship will hold the title by courtesy until the usual forms can be complied with. He is the lineal descendant of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon; and Catherine, daughter of George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence. His elevation to the Peerage will, doubtless, give much satisfaction to his noble relative the Marquis of Hastings, who has, at all times, proved himself the sincerest of his Lordship's friends.”

When this newspaper found its way to Enniskillen, it caused no



small sensation of pleasure among his Lordship's numerous friends. A few there were, indeed, who felt a contrary sentiment; but they were so few, and so contemptible, as not to be worth even an ill-humoured reflection; nor would they be hinted at here, only to show them that they are known and despised.

Having advanced "thus far into the bowels of the land," (I cannot add, "without impediment,") and placed affairs in so promising a train, I prepared for my return to Ireland with a joyful heart. An illness, however, with which I was seized at this time, prevented my intentions for some weeks, during which, in my intervals of ease, I arranged and digested, as well as I was able, all that Sir Samuel had said and written on the occasion, and set down a vast number of queries, which occurred to me as important to the further prosecution of the cause when I should come back to England again. At length, having sufficiently recovered my health and strength, I parted for Ireland. On my arrival in Dublin, I found my affairs, in consequence of my long absence, in a state of confusion and arrear with my clients, which required some weeks' close attention to put in order again. I then sent for Lord and Lady Huntingdon, and having had a consultation with our counsel and best friends, to whom I submitted the results of my journey, and Sir S. Romilly's letters, it was resolved unanimously, that his Lordship should assume the title, as that step would be the most likely means to draw all opponents, who might have pretensions, into the field at once, and at the same time serve as a public avowal of his determination to prosecute, as advised, his indisputable claim to the Earldom. The moment this vote was put and carried, the little party of friends, assembled at my house on the occasion, drank his Lordship's health, three times three. In order to devote my undivided attention to the object which had now become completely

paramount in my mind, and that no obstacle, by partly occupying my thoughts, might tend to postpone the success, which from the first I looked on as certain, I resolved to dispose of all my property in Dublin, break up my establishment, and remove my family to London at once. This project was no sooner conceived, than I set about its execution. Before the 20th of December following, I had finally arranged every thing for my departure, sold my house, furniture, &c. transferred the business of my clients, with their approbation, into other hands, and sailed for England on the 23d of that month. Next day we landed at Liverpool, and on the 25th, ate our Christmas dinner at the Huntingdon Arms, in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, within a few paces of those castellated walls, whose very ruins attest the ancient grandeur of the illustrious House of Hastings. Apprized, as I now was, that it would be necessary to prove, *by the first class of evidence*, the total extinction, from the date of the letters patent, in 1529, of every male descendant of the family, who ever had existed, and whose claim, if living, would, or might be prior to that of my client, I renewed my searches in the registry of Ashby Church, and obtained a second, and more accurate list of births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths, than I formerly took pains to collect. I next proceeded to Castle Donnington, in order to procure certificates of the entries made in the parish register there, relative to the family in question. I found several; but some, it plainly appeared, had been cut out, and the clergyman expressed his opinion that this must have been done by order of *Oliver Cromwell*. From the nature of circumstances I was by no means disposed to refer these depredations to so early a date, though I certainly did suspect that some such *hypocritical Protector* had a hand in thus attempting to obscure and confuse, for some unfair purpose, the genealogical history of the family. Luckily, however,

*Cromwell* never meddled with the Ashby Register, not more than seven miles off, and in which the following entry completely filled up the hiatus made at Donnington. " July 7, 1649. This day was buried in the vault under the chancel, the remains of the Right Honourable Henry Lord Hastings, the eldest, last, and only surviving, son of Ferdinando, Earl of Huntingdon, and the Lady Lucy his wife." This sufficiently showed the death of John and Ferdinando, Henry's two brothers, who were interred at Donnington, but the entry of whose burials was not to be found. The birth, too, in 1650, of Theophilus the seventh Earl, further confirmed the above entry, his mother being pregnant of him at the time of his brother's decease. Thus the iniquitous intentions of the *Protector* were so far defeated.

After duly inspecting the Registry at Donnington, and gleaning all the information I could by inquiry, I brought Mrs. Bell to visit the Park and its splendid old mansion. In examining the different apartments we were particularly struck with the marked resemblance observable between the present Earl's children and some of the old family portraits. Among the valuable collection of pictures, we remarked the likeness of Richard the Third, and that of Sir Edward Hastings, ancestor of the present Earl, with various others of equal interest. Having satiated our taste with a view of all that the house and grounds contain of curious, beautiful, or magnificent, we left the Park highly gratified ; and next day proceeded to Great and Little Leke, where I obtained a copy of the entry of the burial of the Reverend Theophilus Hastings, late Rector of that parish, and uncle of the present Earl. On his tombstone I observed these remarkable words—" Let no one be buried in the church." In front of the Parsonage-house there then stood a small stone pillar, supporting a sun-dial, and bearing a Latin inscription, stating that Reverend

gentleman to be eleventh Earl of Huntingdon, godson of Theophilus the ninth Earl, and entitled to the Earldom by descent. This memorial, Mr. Hastings, in his life-time, had engraved on a tin plate, and fixed over the inscription mentioned in page 179. The plate I never saw, it being removed or destroyed, by what means I do not pretend to say ; but I traced out the person who painted it, and the man from whom it was bought, as well as many others who remembered having seen and read it. From Leke we proceeded to the town of Leicester, where I made several diligent searches in the parish registries of St. Mary's and St. Margaret's. The present highly respectable and worthy Rector of the latter, the Reverend Thomas Burnaby, lent me every assistance in his power, as well at that time as subsequently ; and I have every reason to be grateful, not only for the anxiety, which he very properly conceived it his duty to show and prove, in endeavouring to bring my client's claim to light, but for the very polite attentions, which I experienced from him and his truly amiable family. In St. Mary's I found the curious entry, formerly referred to, of a licence to eat flesh in Lent, granted to Barbara, the wife of Sir Edward Hastings. I next went to Humberston, and thence successively to Foston, Belgrave, Loughborough, Lutterworth, Welford, and lastly to Northampton, for a copy of the will of Richard Hastings, great grandfather of the present Earl. Returning, with the fruits of this tour, to Leicester, I then proceeded with my family for London. The day after my arrival, I prepared the draft of a Petition to the Prince Regent, with which I waited on Sir Samuel Romilly, and informed him of all my operations since our last interview. Sir Samuel, who received me with great politeness, and appeared much gratified at the progress I had made, promised to read the draft, and dispose of it as soon as possible. In the interim, which was about six days, I endorsed all my documents, and arranged them in proper order. I also compiled an improved Genea-

logical Table, which I put into the hands of a printer, and got such other matters ready as, under the circumstances, seemed necessary.

It was at this juncture, the 10th of January 1818, that I called for the first time at the College of Arms. Having introduced myself to Francis Townsend, Esq. late Windsor Herald, I entered on the subject of my visit, stating very fully my view of my noble client's case, and giving him a minute detail of what I had done from the commencement of the proceedings. Mr. Townsend begged I would call on him the following day, and bring with me such documents as I was possessed of, that we might peruse them together. To this I agreed, and we accordingly went over the whole of the evidence I had collected ; but here a new and unexpected difficulty started up in my way. To my inexpressible vexation I now found that the Honourable Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, who is stated in Collins's Peerage, and other such authorities, to have had only two sons, Sir George and Henry, had in fact no fewer than five, and that these five sons, with their male issue, were twenty-four in number, besides the probability of their descendants being still more numerous ! Here was another ample field to expatiate in—"Alps rising over Alps" till lost in the cloudy distance. The prospect almost deterred me, and I felt that sickness of the heart, which arises from hope deferred. But staring at the difficulty was not the way to overcome it. "More glory will be won, or less be lost," said I, and I at once resolved to put my shoulder manfully to the wheel. Before entering upon this new task, however, and in order to be still advancing a step, I first revised the draft of the Petition, and on the 20th of January presented it to the Prince Regent through the Secretary of State for the Home Department, Lord Sidmouth. On the 22d of the same month, to the great credit of his Royal Highness and his Ministers, it was referred to the Attorney General, Sir Samuel Shepherd, for his consideration. On ascertaining that such was the

case, I hastened to the chambers of this most upright officer, and there learned that, from the vast pressure of Government business, I could not possibly have a hearing before the 2d of April. I did not much regret the delay, as it afforded me an opportunity, during the interval, of seeking out the additional proofs required. To this object I now therefore resolutely applied myself. My first step was to make a search in Doctors' Commons, from the year 1560, being that in which the testament of Francis the second Earl was proved, for the wills and administrations of all persons of the name of Hastings, down to the year 1805. This laborious task I undertook and performed myself, and it amply repaid me for the trouble. I collected together the wills and administrations of upwards of one hundred and eighty individuals of the name, and was fortunate enough to hit upon some belonging to the Woodland family, which were of vast, I may say, vital, importance. But here again a formidable difficulty presented itself, and kept me a considerable time at bay. In the Visitation of 1681-2, two persons, named Ferdinando and Theophilus Hastings, described as the sons of Ferdinando and Deborah Hastings, of Kennington, in the county of Surrey, were stated to have been born, the former in 1675, the latter in 1677; but this unlucky document did not tell where they were born, baptized, married, or buried, or whether they had, or had not, any descendants. This seemed an insuperable barrier to our progress, and how to surmount the obstacle was matter of no small perplexity. Fully aware of the importance of the circumstance, I conferred with Mr. Townsend, who joined me in opinion, that Sir Samuel Romilly should be immediately consulted. Accordingly we waited on him next day by appointment. I explained the embarrassment, in which I stood, and my mortifying ignorance of any present means of extrication. Sir Samuel requested me to call again in a few days, add-

ing that he would, in the interim, diligently examine and compare the various papers I had put into his hands, and then give me the best advice in his power. The father of Ferdinando and Theophilus, the two persons in question, is stated, in the Visitation alluded to, to be of Kennington Common in the county of Surrey. I therefore searched Lambeth and the adjacent parishes for the register of their births, but without effect. I then tried to find out the will of their father or mother, but it appeared there was neither will nor administration. I next endeavoured to discover the wills of their uncles, aunts, and next of kin, in hopes to trace out some mention of such names, but here again I was doomed to be disappointed. Half despairing of success I returned to Sir Samuel, who heard me with his usual patience and attention, and then addressed me nearly in the following terms. "I have read, with great attention, the copy of the Visitation of 1681, and the Genealogical Table, which you left me, together with the wills and administrations, which you say, you presume, are those of the Ferdinando and Theophilus in question, but I cannot trace the slightest appearance of identity. The documents before me may possibly be the wills of these parties, but until you are able to show most clearly that they are such, no Attorney-General would feel himself justified in reporting that your client is entitled to the honours you claim for him. I have given this case my best consideration, but must confess I know not, nor can I conceive, how you are to act after failing in this point. I must therefore merely hope that you will, by perseverance, be more fortunate, though I feel myself incapable of pointing out what you ought further to do, and can only recommend you to trust in the goodness of that Providence, who has so far assisted you in unravelling, without the smallest clew, this web of mystery. If the object is to be accomplished, you will succeed. I have every confidence in your

exertions, and had from the moment I first saw this Genealogical Table, which for clearness and accuracy, under the circumstances, and so far as you have gone, never, I believe, has been excelled." I stood astounded, and gazing at Sir Samuel with something like incredulous amazement, but he showed me to the door, telling me that it would be folly to expect any assistance from him till I had proved the identity and extinction of Ferdinando, his brother Theophilus, and their issue male, if any they had, and wishing me every success, with a melancholy nod, bade me good afternoon. The moment I was out of sight of his chambers I gave a loose to my vexation, cursing his stupidity for not showing me what was impossible, and my own wayward destiny, till I had almost wrought myself into a fever. But this was not the way to remedy the evil; this was not placing the reliance on Providence enjoined by Sir Samuel. In the course of a few hours I recovered my powers of reflection, and sat down to consider what best might be done to guide me through the labyrinth, among the dark passages and intricacies of which I was so likely to lose my way. My first suggestion was to apply to Mr. Townsend, but I unluckily met Lord Huntingdon. I told him very little of the recent obstacle which had started up on my path, for I did not see the propriety of prematurely dashing his hopes, which were never sanguine, when perhaps a few hours might relieve us all from the painful predicament. His Lordship, however, from my ruffled temper and unusual reserve, as well as the ominous and chopfallen title-page of my face, which indeed "bespoke the nature of a tragic volume," guessed more than I was willing he should know. His curiosity naturally became interested, and he said, as he was just then disengaged, that he would accompany me to the College of Arms. Having arrived, I withdrew with Mr. Townsend to a separate apartment, and made him fully acquainted



with the result of my late conference with Sir Samuel Romilly, the circumstances of which in fact he already knew, having accidentally seen Sir Samuel shortly after he and I parted. This old gentleman, deeming it, I must suppose, part of his official duty, stated it to be out of the question that we could proceed with any chance of attaining our object, and conjured up such an imaginary host of difficulties as were quite sufficient to deter his aspirations, and in fact make him relinquish the object altogether. He told him, that at all events his claim must be referred to a Committee of Privileges, and that years must pass away before success could crown our efforts, even admitting that we should be so fortunate as to overcome our then existing difficulties, which, for his part, he said, he thought next to impossible. These galling and gloomy forebodings, as it may be easily supposed, were not very palatable to my client. His good sense and philosophy however sustained him under such apparent reverse of fortune, and he bore it with becoming, though not altogether passive, dignity. As soon as we had left the presence of Mr. Townsend, and thrown ourselves into a hackney coach, his Lordship vented his spleen on me with a vengeance. He protested, that if he had known the Woodland family ever existed, he would not have been dolt, idiot, fool enough to come to England on such a romantic errand, such a Quixotic enterprise; but he would now sell his property, go to America, and never again be heard of; with much more in the same style. This language drove me from grief to rage, and my temper is none of the most placable. His Lordship murmured; I retorted in my own defence; and we parted in very pretty humour with each other. I returned to my lodgings, and he went home to impart his disappointment and mortification to Lady Huntingdon, who refused to believe one sentence of what Mr. Townsend had said, relying on my judgment with implicit confidence. She told

her husband he was too much alarmed by those discouraging reflections and random predictions, which, perhaps, after all, had no better foundation than envy and jealousy at a prospect of success, which would crown them with fortune and honour. At length by soothing arguments, she succeeded in allaying his mental agitation. In all this irritation of his Lordship's feelings there was nothing to be wondered at, for I must acknowledge I had long taught him to consider success as certain; but let it be recollected that this was under an impression, derived from erroneous authorities, that there were only six members of the Woodland family who had ever existed, and of whose extinction it would be incumbent on me to bring forward evidence. My client's dissatisfaction and scepticism became vexatious. Mr. Townsend was separately and privately consulted, and he helped to blacken the prospect, as appeared by some of his letters on the subject, which fell into my hands. Under these circumstances, and in order to confront us, we were invited to dine together at his Lordship's. After dinner the conversation turned upon the pending Peerage, concerning which, Mr. Townsend again declared his conviction, that the case must inevitably be referred to the Committee of Privileges, and that years, or at least several sessions, must intervene before their Lordships could possibly come to any decision. I contended, with some warmth, that this assertion was ridiculous, inasmuch as the mode of proceeding was not necessarily such as he described, but would depend upon the merits of the case, and the nature of the evidence produced; at the same time affirming, in the inspiration of the moment, that I would bring the business to a close before the expiration of nine months: and I am happy I have been able to keep my word. On this occasion Lord Huntingdon apparently gave himself up to the opinion of Mr. Townsend, and I, not much relishing the company of this *herald* of doubt and dismay, went away at an early hour. On the way home,

my brother, Captain Bell, who had dined with us, referring to the impression which Mr. Townsend's sentiments appeared to produce on his Lordship's mind, cautioned me to beware how I proceeded in a cause, in which the principal, by lending his ear to other and contrary advice, manifestly discouraged my further exertions in his favour. Very much disturbed in mind by the events of the day, I waited till all my family had retired to rest, and then, hauling over the whole of the papers relative to my noble client's claim, and placing the Genealogical Table before me, I set about re-considering the mystery, which enveloped the before-mentioned Ferdinando and Theophilus. I had already, as above stated, searched the Registry of Lambeth, the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, and every other place, where I thought there was a shadow of chance to obtain information of these two persons, but all in vain. I now read over and over again the wills, and abstracts of wills, of several persons of the same name, but could not catch a single glimpse of identity. Floundering about for some time in this "palpable obscure" this Euripus of perplexity, my good genius at length suggested an expedient, of which I determined to try the efficacy with all practicable expedition. During the progress of my inquiries, I had remarked the frequency of testamentary documents left by females of the family of Hastings, and it struck me, at this moment, as probable, that some of the unmarried sisters or daughters of the Earls of Huntingdon would be likely to remember, by some trifling bequest in their wills, their collateral relatives, giving, at the same time, such description of their rank and residence, as would lead to positive identity. Somewhat relieved by this gleam of comfort I pursued the idea, and quickly found that Lady Elizabeth Hastings, sister of Theophilus the ninth Earl, had died a maiden, and had made a will. My impatience to inspect this will was so great, that I passed the remainder of the night in sleepless anxiety ; and next morning, as soon

as the Prerogative Office was open, I rushed to the desk with a headlong avidity not very compatible with grave official forms. I searched, and, to my unspeakable gratification, found the precious instrument. It bequeathed a bond, value 100*l.* to Ferdinando Hastings, of Long Alley, Shoreditch, Gent. late of Kennington. By the help of this new light, I soon discovered the will of this Ferdinando also, and thanked God when I found he had an only child, a daughter, named Deborah, to whom in a codicil he leaves the aforesaid bond, "bequeathed to him by Lady Elizabeth Hastings his relative," together with all the rest of his real and personal estate. My search was then renewed for the will of Theophilus, Ferdinando's brother. I knew, if I succeeded in discovering it, and that it should prove the decease without issue of Theophilus, that all the imps of darkness could not prevent my ultimate success. I therefore sought the document with a correspondent degree of anxiety. Every thing now seemed to rest on this single *point d'appui*; and when at length I discovered the will of a Theophilus Hastings, which was proved in 1755, my feelings were wound up to such a pitch of interest, that, for some moments, I vainly endeavoured to read, that which lay under my eyes. Having recalled my faculties I with difficulty read the first lines, which began, "I Theophilus Hastings, of Long Alley, in the parish of Shoreditch, Gent. being well stricken in years, &c." Here my agitation became excessive. On the tenor of that instrument my own earthly happiness, my hopes of honest fame, and, what I valued still more, the prosperity of my noble friend and client, might be said to depend; and those only, who have laboured as I did, and pined in tedious suspense for the treasure which was to confirm, or perhaps blast, their prospects, can sufficiently estimate what I felt at that moment. At last I mustered courage to proceed, and all my trepidation vanished when I found that the testator died a bachelor,

bequeathing "all his estate, real and personal, to the four children of his niece, Deborah, the daughter and only child of his brother Ferdinando." I was, I confess, siek with exultation. Not the philosopher of antiquity, sallying from the bath, shouted "*Eureka!*" with more enthusiastic delight than I did. I flung down the books, nearly ran over the clerks, jostled every one I met, and, rushing from the Commons with an impetuosity, of which, under any other circumstances, I might have been ashamed, threw myself into a coach, and ordered the coachman to gallop to Lord Huntingdon's residence in Montague Place. I flew up stairs to her Ladyship, and claimed a salute, which she promised the moment I discovered the will of Theophilus, or any other document to prove his extinction without male issue. I was received with gladness. His Lordship came in immediately after my arrival, and all was congratulation and joy. I then posted off to Sir Samuel Romilly, to whom, in a state of breathless haste, I communicated the fortunate tidings. He most affectionately caught me by the hand, his eyes sparkling with pleasure, and declared his gratification in the warmest terms. He flatteringly told me I was an extraordinary fellow, applauded the lucky thought which led to the discovery, augured future prosperity in my profession ; and, in a moment after, became the same reserved formal official being that he generally appeared to be. I took my leave of Sir Samuel, not a little pleased with the warm reception I had met with, for I still seemed to feel the benevolent pressure of his hand, and to see the look of kindness and candour that accompanied it.

I now lost no time in apprizing the Attorney-General that I was ready to attend him for a first hearing; and the following Wednesday, the 2d of April, was appointed for that purpose. I must not, however, omit to mention here, that a little before this, and

preparatory to my entering upon evidence, I was fortunate enough to obtain a most material, and not less complimentary, concession. In all such cases as that which I was conducting, it is the prescriptive custom, and, in general, considered indispensably necessary, that the Attorney-General should be attended, not only by a Solicitor, but by Counsel. At this period, I was, strictly speaking, neither the one nor the other, not having been called to the Bar, nor ever sworn in Chancery, so that I might be considered simply as an agent, acting, or prepared to act, in both capacities. Under this difficulty I consulted Sir Samuel Romilly, who, when he heard how I was circumstanced, at once, and in the most handsome manner, said, "You are at liberty to mention my name to the Attorney-General, and tell him I desired you to say that, in my opinion, you are much better qualified to conduct the claim of your client than any counsel in England could possibly be, from your having collected the whole mass of evidence yourself, and being perfectly acquainted with every circumstance, which can tend to elucidate the difficulties likely to arise in the course of the investigation. Tell the Attorney-General, moreover, that I will not only vouch for this, but that I conceive he will save himself an immensity of fatigue and trouble by receiving you as counsel, as it is impossible any lawyer could be so thoroughly master of the subject, even if he made it his exclusive study for months together." With this flattering recommendation I repaired to the Attorney-General, at his house, in New Street, Spring Gardens, and made him acquainted with Sir Samuel Romilly's sentiments, with which he expressed himself quite satisfied, telling me that he would receive me accordingly, without requiring the attendance of any other professional person. There was a courtesy, and a liberality, in this concession, for which, as a stranger, I felt doubly grateful; besides, it was gaining another

point of ~~vast~~ importance at the time, by saving, on the most moderate calculation, some hundred pounds!

Thus recognized, and provided with such enlarged powers, I waited upon the Attorney-General, on the appointed day, at his chambers, in Serjeant's Inn, Chancery Lane, accompanied by Mr. Townsend, Windsor Herald. We had scarcely entered upon business, when we differed in opinion respecting the method to be pursued. Sir Samuel Shepherd and Mr. Townsend were for commencing with George, the first Earl, created in 1529. To this I would not assent, and submitted the necessity of proving my client's immediate descent in the first instance. My argument, to which Sir Samuel had the goodness to attend, was this, "To commence with the first Earl appears to me an injudicious plan, inasmuch as, even supposing me to be so fortunate as to prove the extinction of sixty-eight out of the sixty-nine persons mentioned in the Genealogical Table before you, it might happen that I should not be able to satisfy you that my client is the son of the sixty-eighth individual so specified. In case of such failure, the preceding labour would be all lost; besides, the immense expense, which I am aware must be incurred in showing, by original documents, the extinction of such a number of persons, and their male issue, any of whom, if in existence, would have a prior right, to the exclusion of my client. I therefore humbly trust you will permit me first to shew, as I have no doubt I can do, the lineal descent of the claimant from one of the Earls of Huntingdon, who lawfully inherited that title. By the establishment, at the outset, of this cardinal fact, I feel that I shall have a still stronger call on your attention, and I persuade myself I shall be able to follow it up with evidence of the extinction of every deriving and intermediate branch, which, if surviving, could possibly interfere with the succession of my client." The Attorney-

General expressed himself pleased with the propriety of these observations, and desired me to commence on my own plan accordingly. We now, therefore, proceeded to actual business, and, in a few hours, I satisfied his mind, that my client was the eldest surviving lineal male descendant of Sir Edward Hastings, the fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, thus establishing the first great point in my case. I had not, at this time, procured all the necessary registries entire, but Sir Samuel received as evidence the abstracts I had made, on my pledging myself to bring forward the originals at our next meeting. At the conclusion of this day's labours, he was pleased to observe, that it appeared to him, from the documents produced, admitting the abstracts of registries supplied by me to be genuine, that the claimant was the lineal descendant of Francis, the second Earl. "But, Mr. Bell," added Sir Samuel, "you must be aware that you have still a vast number of difficulties to overcome before you can satisfy me that I shall be justified in reporting in your client's favour. However, if he is right, I sincerely wish him success." This declaration, and the results of the hearing generally, were rather encouraging, and tended, on the whole, notwithstanding the opposite and dispiriting tone which Mr. Townsend all along assumed, to keep up my spirits, and inspire me with confidence. That gentleman still totally rejected the idea, that the Attorney-General could be induced, from any force of evidence which I might be able to bring into the field, to report otherwise, than that the case was worthy the consideration of a Committee of Privileges. Through that ordeal, he persisted to maintain and to inculcate on my client's mind, we must necessarily pass at last, let the intermediate operations proceed ever so prosperously. Indeed, in one instance, this old prophet had wrought Lord Huntingdon's mind into an abso-



lute despair of success, representing his case as quite desperate, and that the Attorney-General had expressed his belief that, for want of evidence, he should not be justified even in referring it to a Committee; all which, in fact, amounted to this, that, in Mr. Townsend's judgment at that time, his Lordship had no claim. Such gratuitous opinions, however they might annoy, were so far from appalling me, that they only rendered me more assiduous and persevering; and Mr. Townsend\* began to appear in my eyes a kind of evil apparition, something as preposterous as a bird of bad omen, or one of the witches in Macbeth. From that time forward I studiously shunned his company, except when necessity obliged me to meet him in the presence of the Attorney-General.

About this period, I remember, my feelings were very much harassed by certain persons, choosing to style themselves my best friends, some of whom belaboured me with letters, begging me to relinquish a pursuit, which could not end otherwise than in my ruin. Others had the politeness to wait on me with advice in the same style, pointing out the impossibilities, which I had the folly and presumption to believe I could overcome, and winding up the lecture by the obvious inference, that, unless I desisted in time, my fortunes would be utterly shipwrecked, and myself become an object of scorn and laughter for all my more prudent associates and acquaintances. Such were the distracting, but, no doubt, well-meant, admonitions, which I was daily doomed to read or hear; and all who visited me, in expressing their best wishes for my success, took especial care to add, with a sagacious and sceptical

\* Notwithstanding that I have ever entertained a most decided dislike to the late Mr. Townsend's lingering manner of doing business, which was better suited to the days of Queen Elizabeth than to the present age, yet let me do his memory the justice to declare that I believe he was a man of considerable talent, conscientious in the discharge of his duty, and a worthy private character.

shake of the head, that it was, nevertheless, very doubtful. I confess I had not a temper sufficiently patient always to bear this kind of teasing discipline without feeling an inclination to retort, which I sometimes perhaps did in a strain much less equivocal than the provocation. Indeed, the only person who seemed to place, and who really did place, unlimited reliance on my word and exertions in the business, was the Countess of Huntingdon herself; and but for the support and confidence I derived from her, I know not whether I should have found energy enough to persevere. Nothing could alter her belief that I should succeed at last, though she was tormented by every kind soul of her acquaintance, expressing, forsooth, their fears for my reason, and demanding what right she had to place such implicit reliance on the talents of so young and inexperienced a man, with a thousand other insinuations of a similar nature, sufficient to shake the faith of a martyr. But all was in vain. "Let that young man alone," her Ladyship would say, "and my life on it he will succeed."—The approbation of such an one outweighed the censure of a whole theatre of others, and compensated for the doubts infused into Lord Huntingdon's mind by Mr. Townsend, and the perplexing hints he was incessantly giving me of his uneasiness and impatience relative to the event. However, from the time I had discovered the wills of Theophilus and Ferdinando, Mr. Townsend's ascendancy over his Lordship grew gradually less and less, till, at length, and about the present period of our progress, he became my convert, positively promising that his confidence in me should remain unshaken by any future trial, and that he would trust to Providence and my exertions for the rest.

While these operations were going forward, I took occasion to call on Mr. Samuel Pryer, of Gray's Inn, a much-esteemed friend

of mine, to whose attentions I am greatly indebted, in consequence of having learned that he was in possession of a box, deposited with him for safe keeping, containing the armorial ensigns of the Earls of Huntingdon and Derby, which were presented by Francis, the late Earl of Huntingdon, to Colonel George Hastings, father of the present Earl. At first, Mr. Pryer did not appear to have any recollection of the circumstance; but on questioning his clerk, we found there was a chest in his chambers answering my description, which I begged permission to examine. The chest was produced, and in a few minutes I drew forth these long-hidden relics of family greatness and antiquity, which proved to be the identical shield, on which were quartered the arms of Hastings, with those of Stanley, on occasion of the marriage, about the year 1600, of Henry, the fifth Earl of Huntingdon, to Elizabeth, daughter of Ferdinando Stanley, Earl of Derby; together with the crests of the respective families, all carved on oak, and painted in the appropriate colours of heraldry. These arms are the same referred to in the Attorney General's Report, as produced to him by me. They had remained in Mr. Pryer's custody, unnoticed and forgotten, for more than fourteen years; and I have been informed, by the most respectable authority, that the Marquis of Hastings anxiously wished, and used his utmost endeavours, to obtain possession of them. But Lord Huntingdon was inexorable, and they have, therefore, at last, fallen into the hands of the legitimate owner.

On the second day of my attendance (the 6th of April,) before the Attorney-General, he would not permit me to proceed till I had, according to my engagement, supplied the evidence so far as it was deficient the first day. This I came of course fully prepared to do, and did, to his entire satisfaction, by producing such original registries as were wanting at the former hearing, with the personal

attendance of the clergymen of the several parishes, or their clerks. Here I must observe, that, in the course of my professional experience, I never saw any man, in high official capacity, more tenaciously, more conscientiously, watchful to detect any attempt at imposition than Sir Samuel appeared on this occasion, as well as throughout the whole investigation. He examined the registries, &c. most minutely, with spectacles and magnifying glasses to assist his sight, and I had the satisfaction to perceive he considered all the documents, as afterwards stated in his Report, "genuine and free from suspicion." I was particularly anxious that he should find, and be convinced, that no circumstance could induce me to put in any document as evidence, to which the colour or shadow of suspicion could by possibility be attached; and, from the kind manner in which he ever after received me, I persuade myself he perceived and estimated this disposition on my part. Having fully supplied the deficiencies in the first day's evidence, I now proceeded to the consideration of the younger sons of Francis Lord Hastings, eldest son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon. Sir George, the second of these sons, is stated, in Collins's Peerage, to have married Seymour, daughter of Sir Gilbert Prynne, of Chippenham, in Wilts; by whom, besides three daughters, he had issue four sons; George, Charles, Ferdinando, and Francis. Having discovered that Sir George had resided in the parish of St. Bartholomew the Great, I searched the Registry there, and found the entry of his burial in these words: "July 14, 1641, Sir George Hastings was this day buried of the plágue;" and likewise that of his son Ferdinando. From the copy of an old funeral achievement, which formerly hung in St. Bartholomew's church, I was able to collect that Francis, the youngest son, died at Weybridge, Surrey, an infant, which fact was fully substantiated by the registry of that place, with which the cler-

gyman had the goodness to attend. By the help of this achievement, I was further enabled, not, however, without much labour and perplexity in establishing the identity of the parties, to trace out and adduce satisfactory evidence of the total extinction, without male issue, of the four sons of Sir George Hastings.

I next proceeded to show the extinction of the younger sons of George, the fourth Earl, and their issue male, any of whom, if found surviving, would interpose between my client and the title. On this particular portion of the family history, I felt it my duty to point out to Sir Samuel's notice an erroneous statement in Collins's Peerage, concerning the Honourable Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, the second of these sons, stated in that book to have had only two sons, whereas the Visitation of 1681-2, deposited in the College of Arms, proved that the said Henry had five sons, who left a numerous male issue. The Attorney-General having satisfied himself that the Visitation alluded to was correct and genuine, required me to proceed, and I accordingly went into the proofs of the extinction of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, his eldest son, Sir George, and the three sons of the latter, George, Edward, and John, all of whose deaths, without issue male, I satisfactorily proved. I then went on to state, that I was not, at that moment, altogether prepared to prove the extinction of the remainder of this line, consisting of twenty other persons, but begged to be allowed to dispose of as many of the branches as my researches had been able to reach. Mr. Townsend combated this proposal, supporting his objection by quoting my own arguments on a former occasion. He said he feared it was but too probable that I should not be able to adduce evidence of the total extinction of the male issue of the Woodland line, and if not, entering upon any part was only an idle waste of time and fruitless labour. The Attorney-General, having

assented to a similar objection urged by me the first day, could not overrule it; or perhaps he deemed it prudent not to expedite a case, which, from the outset, presented so much uncertainty. After some conversation on the subject, he told me he would adjourn until the 27th of April then instant, and give me an opportunity, in the interim, to seek the evidence in question, requisite as it was, at this stage of our progress, and absolutely necessary to ultimate success. I was accordingly obliged to retire, and this circumstance afforded Mr. Townsend fresh occasion, which he industriously improved, to propagate his darling doubts, and undermine the confidence of my client. The Attorney-General himself, who, up to this period, had entertained a favourable opinion of our case, now looked upon it as little better than a farce, an "airy nothing," to which I never should be able to "give a local habitation and a name," as he since told me. To add to our disquietude, and swell the mass of uncertainty, Lord Sidmouth, who had hitherto addressed my noble client as a Peer, wrote to him he could not do so in future till his claim should be fully substantiated. I was worried on every side, and it required the patience of Job to manage all the parties concerned. The particular difficulty, in point of evidence, which at this period presented itself, was the want of proofs of the extinction of Ralph and George Hastings, described to be of Hinton, in Hampshire, two descendants of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands. I made a most fatiguing search in every place in London, where public records are kept, for acts done by these persons, but not a trace of them could be found. Not well knowing what to do, it occurred to me that it would be prudent to apply to the Marchioness of Hastings, then at Campden Hill, Kensington, requesting her to favour us with the use of the Pedigree of the Earls of Huntingdon, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl, and bequeathed in his

will to every future successor to the title for the time being. I accordingly consulted with Lord Huntingdon, who concurred in the suggestion, and by my advice addressed the following letter to her Ladyship.

“ MADAM,

“ Montague Street, Montague Square, April 13, 1818.

“ Conceiving that your Ladyship has heard that I have claimed the title of Huntingdon, and am likely to succeed, I am induced to apply to you for some papers which are, I presume, at Donnington Park. Were the Marquis of Hastings at present in England, I feel confident he would not withhold them, and from the inclosed extract, it appears, they are bequeathed to such person as may succeed to the title. May I therefore beg a favourable answer, and, with the sincerest respect,

“ Believe me, your Ladyship’s

“ Most obedient humble servant,

“ HUNTINGDON.”

*(Copy of the paper inclosed.)*

“ Theophilus, the seventh Earl of Huntingdon, by his will dated in 1698, and proved in 1701, expressly directs, that his coronet and his robes of velvet and scarlet, and his pedigrees and seals, shall be and remain to him, who, for the time being, shall be Earl of Huntingdon, of his (the testator’s) family.”

“ It is conceived that the pedigrees above mentioned would be of material use in support of the case of the present claimant; and there is reason to believe that they are now remaining at Castle Donnington. The claimant therefore takes the liberty of applying to the Marchioness of Hastings, the Lord Marquis being out of the kingdom, in the hope of obtaining from her Ladyship an order to

the officer who has the custody of these documents, to permit the claimant's Solicitor, or Mr. Townsend, Windsor Herald, to inspect the same, in order to ascertain whether and how far they are likely to contribute to that purpose."

To this application the Marchioness thought proper to write the annexed reply, which she sent to my client the following day by one of her servants.

" SIR,

" Campden Hill, April 13, 1818.

" I have the honour to acknowledge the letter, which you have written to me, respecting some family papers, robes, seals, &c. &c. belonging to the late Earl of Huntingdon. You inform me that you consider these articles must descend to the heir of that title, and in that light should be made over to you as having an undoubted right to those honours. You farther request me to give an order for the delivery of the aforesaid property in the absence of Lord Hastings. In answer to this, I must beg leave to say, that I have *no right* to do so, and assuredly *no disposition* to trespass beyond my right in the transfer or alienation of any family documents or property, the destination of which I do not understand. Although I believe Lord Hastings has, at all times, given every facility in his power to the examination of any papers calculated to secure the interests of the rightful heir to the Huntingdon Peerage. I am next forced to the unpleasant necessity of saying that, in *my* situation, (besides there being other claimants generally tending to render any title doubtful, there is, in this instance, one of the elder branches claiming, as the descendant of Hastings of the Woodlands) it is quite impossible for me to acknowledge even the best rights as *certain* until recognised by parliament. I therefore trust, Sir, that



these reasons will justify the trouble which I occasion you by so long an explanation.

“ And I have the honour to be,

“ Your most humble Servant,

“ F. HASTINGS and MOIRA, mine LOUDON.”

“ To Francis Hans Hastings, Esq.”

This letter put an end to all our hopes in this quarter; but, as the Marchioness, either wilfully or otherwise, seemed to labour under some misconception of the meaning of Lord Huntingdon's letter, I thought some explanation due to her Ladyship's rank, if nothing to her friendship, and also to the principles of my client. On these grounds the following answer was returned:

“ MADAM,

“ April 16, 1818.

“ Your Ladyship would not have been troubled with a second application from me, but that I perceive the object of my first has been misconstrued, owing, no doubt, to a want of clearness in my statement of it; and it is only for the purpose of explaining that object, that I once more take the liberty of addressing your Ladyship, requesting the favour of your attention to the contents of the paper inclosed in my first letter, by which your Ladyship will perceive that, so far from requiring all or any of the articles therein mentioned to be made over to me, as having an undoubted right to them under the will of Earl Theophilus, my only suit to your Ladyship was, that you would be pleased to give order to the officer, in whose custody the pedigrees of the family are remaining, to permit my Solicitor, or Mr. Townsend, Windsor Herald, to have an inspection of those pedigrees, merely for the purpose of ascertaining whether, and how far, they were likely to be of use in support of my claim.

“ I feel it due to your Ladyship, as well as to myself, to offer this explanation.

“ And have the honour to be,

“ Your Ladyship’s obedient servant,

“ HUNTINGDON.”

Thus terminated the correspondence between the Marchioness of Hastings and my noble client, for this time.

On the 17th of this month, I received information, that a person of the name of Hastings, who, I understood, was a taylor, residing in Cheltenham, had employed a Solicitor to prepare a petition to the Prince Regent, claiming the Earldom for himself, as a descendant of that noble family. As this information reached me through a respectable channel, I deemed it prudent, notwithstanding the ludicrous and even burlesque *cut* of the thing, (for, I could not say with the poet, that “ this was the most unkindest *cut* of all,”) to write to the principal, and, if possible, ascertain the *measures* he had taken, as well as his ultimate views in such a *suit*. To this new aspirant, who would soar from *cabbage* to a *coronet*, I therefore addressed a letter, which I here insert, together with his answer, which is certainly a *fitting* one, as the most fastidious will be inclined, on perusal, to allow.

“ SIR,

“ London, April 22, 1818.

“ I have been this day informed that you have in your possession papers of some value relative to the family of Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon, and that you conceive yourself to be a descendant of that family. I am the person conducting the claim of the present Earl, and will be particularly obliged if you will inform

me of what nature those papers are, or furnish me with copies of them, the expense of which I will cheerfully pay. Your compliance with this request can, in no wise, prejudice your interests, and may be of service to my friend. Should you have any well-founded pretensions, the publicity of such papers will, in my opinion, rather promote than injure them; and if you have a superior claim, which I, at this moment, deem utterly impossible, you may rely on being assisted, as it is resolved the title shall remain no longer in abeyance. After submitting this letter to your professional friend, may I entreat your answer.

“ And believe me, Sir,

“ Your obedient humble Servant,

“ H. N. BELL,”

“ To Mr. Hastings, Cheltenham.”

“ SIR,

“ April 25, 1818.

“ I am very much obliged by the honour of your communication of the 22d instant, and lose no time in returning you an answer. As to the family of Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon, I certainly consider myself a descendant, and, from circumstances, I have every reason to believe my relationship is of a near description. In short, until the law of the land shall have it otherwise, I shall never be induced to relinquish what I think is my right. My professional adviser is at present in London, where indeed he resides. If I have not the pleasure of seeing him within a fortnight, it will give me satisfaction to introduce him by letter to you. As to what documents I have in my possession, I can have no objection whatever to your inspecting them; for it is not your saying that your friend is the right heir, or my saying that I am, that will substantiate our

claims in the opinion of the Peers of Parliament, unless supported by such evidence as will incontestably prove who is the Earl of Huntingdon.

“ I consider myself highly obliged by your polite letter ;

“ And remain,

“ Your humble servant,

“ WILLIAM HASTINGS.

“ No. 838, Cheltenham.”

After this period, I never heard further from this humble candidate for nobility, who, nevertheless, could boast one distinction in common with the real claimant, they being both educated *on board*. The revival and agitation of any long-suspended claim to hereditary honours or property never fail, in the uncertainty that envelopes it, to bring out a number of false, and often ridiculous, competitors. The next who entered the lists was a poor fishmonger, of the name, who formerly resided in a garret in Chancery Lane. “ To what base uses we may come, Horatio.” Not, however, to enter into any tedious personal details, suffice it to say, that, after considerable labour and distraction from my main object in tracing out his pedigree, I at length proved him, by his own documents, to be descended from a Hastings of another branch of that noble family, who flourished about two centuries before the time of Henry the Eighth, in whose reign the first Earl was created. I was now tormented for a few days by a third candidate, but as he had only assumed the surname of Hastings about five years before, the admission of which fact gave a quietus to his claim, I gladly consign him to “ the tomb of all the Capulets.” For a climax of embarrassment and misery, a fourth counter-claimant about this time started up in the person of a Mr. George Hastings of Killaloo, in Ireland, on whose behalf Messrs.

Evans and Bartram, Solicitors of the Marquis of Hastings, entered a caveat, stating that they had heard my client had sent in a petition to the Prince Regent, that his Royal Highness had referred the same to the Attorney-General, and praying that such petition might not be proceeded in until George Hastings, "the true and undoubted heir to the title of Earl of Huntingdon" could have time to produce evidence in support of his prior claim. The Attorney-General immediately sent me notice of this. It now therefore behoved me to be more than ever attentive, anxious, and persevering, in order that I might be able to defeat the infamous plot thus laid for the ruin of my noble friend. Of ultimate success, notwithstanding the host of difficulties, which appeared to multiply as I advanced, I was not for a moment doubtful; but as I feared that this proceeding of Evans and Bartram might send us, as I verily believe their object was, to a Committee of Privileges, the apprehension gave me great uneasiness.

The moment I was informed of these operations, I waited on the Attorney-General, and stated to him my readiness and competency to disprove all the allegations contained in the caveat, and requesting him to appoint an early day, and call on my antagonists to substantiate their pretensions, or withdraw from the contest. Sir Samuel replied, that it was his duty to give the new claimant a reasonable time to arrange and bring forward his evidence, and fixed upon that day month for hearing the confronted claims of the opposed candidates. During this interval I exerted myself to the utmost in procuring additional proofs of the total extinction, without issue male, of the ancestor from whom George Hastings, the pseudo-claimant, pretended to be derived, who afterwards stated himself to be the eldest lineal male descendant of John Hastings, the third son of Sir George Hastings, and grandson of the Honourable Henry

Hastings, of Woodlands, second son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon. Previous to the putting in of the caveat on the part of the new candidate, I had proved, on the third day, the extinction without issue male of the said John, his pretended ancestor, by the following strong body of evidence ; namely, by the Visitation of 1681-2, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in which this John Hastings is stated to have died “sine Prole ;” by the pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, his grandfather, entered in the Visitations of that same year, where he is also stated to have died without issue ; by two administrations deposited in Doctors’ Commons, one granted in 1658 to his widow Elizabeth, and another granted afterwards to “Thomas Pechell, a principal creditor of both John and Elizabeth Hastings, late of Woodlands in the county of Dorset, deceased ;” and lastly, by the will of Edward, the elder brother of the said John, proved in 1653, in which he bequeaths the family estate of Woodlands, then in his possession as eldest son, to his brother John and his issue male, and, in failure of such issue, to his right heirs for ever ; on which right heirs, as appeared by evidence, the estate did in fact devolve, thereby still further confirming the failure of male issue. With these multiplied and corroborating testimonies, the Attorney-General seemed satisfied till the Petition of George Hastings was referred to his consideration. It naturally struck him as extraordinary and contradictory, after receiving the evidence which I have just detailed, that any claim, founded on such a basis, could be brought forward ; but, “to make assurance doubly sure,” he required me to collect all further possible proofs of the extinction without issue male of the John Hastings in question. In obedience to Sir Samuel’s wish, a few days previous to that fixed for the first hearing of my competitors, I left London for St. Giles’s House, Winburne, the seat of the Earl of

Shaftesbury, into whose possession I understood the Woodland property had passed. On my arrival at this fine old mansion, I found the noble owner, to whose polite and friendly attentions I have heard my client more than once express himself highly indebted, was absent in London, but the Steward civilly afforded me every facility of information in his power. I was permitted to inspect such books in his Lordship's extensive library as I conceived might furnish hints useful to my purpose. After I had made some extracts from Dugdale, Hutchen's Dorsetshire, &c., and copied the curious inscription under the old portrait of Henry Hastings of Woodlands, which I have inserted *verbatim* in the life of that personage, I left St. Giles's for Horton Church. To this place, which is in the immediate vicinity of Woodlands, I travelled in a post-chaise, and was in no small degree surprised to find the driver, at a certain part of our route, leaving the high road, and crossing through the open country for several miles, without any visible direction by which to regulate his progress. A few hours, passed in this "*noiseless* tenor of our way," brought us to our destination. The clerk, who had the charge of the registry, was in the fields, but quickly obeyed my message requiring his attendance. On learning my business he accompanied me to the church, and produced his registries, which are a disgrace, not only to the parish, but to the diocese. In these mutilated records several leaves appeared to be missing, and in one of which I expected to find the entry of the burial of John Hastings, the person about whom I sought information. I asked this clerk a variety of questions bearing on my business. He told me that, some years ago, a Mr. Hastings, accompanied by a tall gentleman, whom from his description I immediately recognized as a person styling himself Sir William Read, had inspected the registry of Horton. I was not very well satisfied at this piece of

intelligence, for reasons which now may as well pass unexplained. The clerk, who did not seem to think his presence necessary, was then moving off, and would have left me and the registry to take care of each other, if I had not pointed out the great impropriety of such negligent conduct on his part. This I took some pains to do, lecturing him severely, moreover, on the shameful state in which I found his old records, and strictly enjoining him never to leave, for a single moment, the parish registry in any visitor's custody, nor by any means to ever allow it to be removed out of his sight. He promised to remember and obey my injunctions, and pointing out, which he did with great facility, the entries of all persons of the name of Hastings, showed me there was no entry of the burial of any person called John Hastings. I paid him the customary fees for the abstracts I had taken, and having copied the inscription on the monument of the Honourable Henry Hastings, erected in the Hastings' aisle of the church, and which is in excellent preservation, I proceeded to Ringwood, thence through Hinton to Christ Church in Hampshire, which last place I reached about eleven o'clock at night. As I had learned at Hinton (now the property of Sir George Tapps) that all the baptisms and deaths which occurred there were registered at Christ Church, and as I was aware that Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, possessed considerable property in the neighbourhood of this last town, as well as in the New Forest, I deemed it prudent to inspect the registry of the parish. After my arrival at the principal inn, I sent for the clerk, Mr. John Lockyer, and requested to see the parish register if it was in his custody. He replied, "that the night was dark and stormy, and that the records I required were unfortunately locked up in an iron chest in the church, a building long noted for the nocturnal disturbances created there by certain unearthly visitants, who had never been at peace since Cromwell's



soldiery stripped the ornaments from their tombs, and defiled the consecrated ground, and sacred walls." I listened with more impatience than amusement or edification to this harangue, delivered with orthodox solemnity of look by the worthy clerk, who I must say, is one of the most attentive and civil of his species. Half dressed as he was, in consequence of my sudden summons, he cut rather a rueful figure on being told I must see the Register immediately, as it was necessary I should pass the New Forest before day-light. I begged he would step home for the keys of the church and a lanthorn, and that, in the interim, I would order some dinner, not having tasted food since seven o'clock in the morning. This last hint was not lost on the landlord, who forthwith produced a roast fowl, which, with the accompaniment of a bacon rasher and some eggs, soon put my stomach in the best of good humour. Lockyer returned, provided with the keys and a lanthorn, just as I had finished, and having fortified his courage, and my own, with some half dozen bumpers of good old port, which seemed to tickle his fancy and improve his eloquence prodigiously, I grasped his arm with one hand, and brandishing an Irish blackthorn in the other, out we sallied, I believe much against the good fellow's inclination. On our way to the church-yard my guide gave me to understand that there were many of the name of Hastings buried in the aisle of the church, and that they had intermarried with the Tulses and Hinxmans, two families once of great respectability in that neighbourhood, but now, he believed, decayed or extinct. By this time we had arrived at the door of a private entrance, and the clerk having applied his keys, we proceeded through a narrow passage into the body of the church, which is a very spacious building. I followed my companion, involved in almost total obscurity, the dim and fitful illumination of the lanthorn only serving to "make darkness

visible." He went on to the iron chest, in which the registry was deposited, while I, provided with a second light, stopped at the spot appropriated to receive the remains of the Hastings family, where I took drawings of the several monuments, and copies of the inscriptions on them, which occupied me upwards of two hours. The clerk, in the interim, had succeeded in fishing out the entries I wanted, and now obligingly assisted my general search among the tomb-stones for such as might throw any collateral light upon the history I was endeavouring to trace. This tedious scrutiny finished, we took our leave of the dead, Lockyer marching in front, armed with the lanthorn and registry, while I followed him with silent docility, and in this order we returned to the inn. In making the extracts necessary for my purpose, I found that the early registries of this parish had been destroyed, as I was informed, by the late curate's wife, who made *kettle-holders* of them, and would most likely have consumed the whole parish archives in this homely way, but that the fortunate and timely interference of the present clerk rescued what now remains from destruction. Mr. Lockyer informed me he had, some years before, at the desire of two strange visitors, made searches in the registry of that parish for all entries relative to persons of the name of Hastings; and here I again was able to trace with tolerable certainty the new claimant, and his coadjutor Sir William Read. Having at length obtained all I wanted, or at least all that was practicable to obtain, I set out about half past one o'clock in the morning for Winchester, where I hoped to find the wills of Ralph and George Hastings, formerly of Hinton in Hampshire, two of the descendants of Henry of Woodlands, whose extinction, as before stated, I was unable to prove by legal documents. I crossed the New Forest before day-break, arrived in Southampton a little before eight o'clock, just in time for a coach, which was to

pass through Winchester, secured a seat, and reached that town a few minutes before the Prerogative Office shut for the day. The officers, on learning my business, and the urgency of it, most kindly lent me their best assistance, and by the help of their exertions, I was fortunate enough to find the two wills, so important to my case. After I had read them diligently, and taken notes of their contents, I gave orders for copies of them to be sent to me in London, and started, the same evening, for that city, which I reached about eleven o'clock at night, excessively fatigued, not having obtained a moment's repose since I left it three days before.

On the 27th of April, the day after my arrival, I attended the Attorney-General at his Chambers, where I hoped to be confronted by Messrs. Evans and Bartram. In this hope, however, I was disappointed. These gentlemen did not "meet me at Philippi," though they had been served with the usual notice, nor had they politeness enough to send an apology for their non-appearance. The Attorney-General, nevertheless, after waiting a considerable time, at length, with the most perfect sense of justice and propriety, complied with my request to be allowed to produce such further evidence as I then had ready, consisting chiefly of wills and administrations relative to the several descendants of Henry Hastings of Woodlands. On this day I brought forward the most perfect and complete evidence of the death, without issue either male or female, of John Hastings, of Woodlands, who, it will be recollected, was the pretended ancestor of the last claimant, George Hastings. The following morning Sir Samuel sent for me to say, that he had a communication from Evans and Bartram requesting further time to collect the proofs necessary to the establishment of their client's case, which they said they would be fully prepared to do in less than a month. "I have therefore," added Sir Samuel, "appointed the 19th of May

for a hearing." On that day, accordingly, I attended ; but again my antagonists, apparently acting on the *Fabian* system, deemed it prudent to decline the combat. The Attorney-General then desired me to proceed for my client, as he now felt bound to conclude that there was no serious intention on the part of my opponents to prosecute the claim set up, no counter-petition having been yet presented, and the agents choosing to absent themselves so unceremoniously. In my kind of *Pilgrim's Progress* I had this day to encounter a difficulty of no trifling magnitude, which gave me some degree of alarm, and which, in fact, must have proved fatal, had I not fortunately succeeded in removing it. I refer to the Letters Patent of Creation, the production of which, in their original form, or some enrolment of them, was absolutely necessary, in order to show limitation to the heirs male of the body of George, first Earl of Huntingdon. Notwithstanding that the Journals of the House of Lords, as well as various other records and legal documents, clearly proved the existence of ten Earls of Huntingdon, who enjoyed the title in regular succession and by lineal descent, yet Sir Samuel gave me clearly to understand, that unless direct evidence of limitation to the heirs male were immediately adduced, it would be quite superfluous to proceed further. He sent to Lord Sidmouth, Secretary of State for the Home Department, for the Report of Sir Vicary Gibbs on the claim of the present Marquis of Hastings to the Baronies of Hungerford, &c. but, on examination, we found the noble Marquis's agents had produced to Sir Vicary only an *insperimus* of the original patent, in which the limitations were not specified. Foiled in my hopes of assistance from this quarter, I searched the Rolls' Chapel, Privy Seal, and every other place where I thought there was a probability of discovering the document itself, or obtaining any hint that might guide me to it, but all in vain. At length it occurred to me, that

the patent I sought for might be inrolled in the Lord Treasurer Remembrancer's Office of the Exchequer. Thither, therefore, I immediately went, and, having entreated that every attention should be paid to a search, on the success of which so much depended, I waited for at least six hours under the most painful apprehensions, as the officers gave me but slender hopes that I should there find the object of my solicitude. Providence, however, had ordered it otherwise. Before seven o'clock in the evening the enrolment of the patent was discovered, and, the moment I had ordered an attested copy, I hastened to impart my success to the Attorney-General, who required my attendance the Monday following, on which day Messrs. Evans and Bartram had re-promised to wait on him without fail. During the interval I had time to look round me, and collect a phalanx of evidence to discomfit the pretensions of the counterfeit claimant, George Hastings, and, thus armed, I panted with no small impatience for the day of trial. It came at last, "the great, the important day," and I attended with several proctors, and clergymen with their parish registries, at Sir Samuel's house in New Street, Spring Gardens. Sir Samuel politely waited an hour beyond the time appointed for the attendance of Evans and Bartram, and at length, after expressing his surprise and displeasure at the extraordinary conduct of these gentlemen, who, as usual, neither appeared, nor sent any kind of apology, he desired me to enter upon business. I now produced the enrolment of the Letters Patent; and next proceeded to show, by the following additional, and almost supererogatory evidence, the total extinction of John Hastings of Woodlands, namely, by the will of John Roy, junior, (son of John Roy, senior, and Frances Hastings, otherwise Roy, his wife) who inherited, as appeared from that will, the estate of Woodlands under the will of his maternal uncle Edward Hastings, on the death of his uncle John

Hastings without issue male or female, and which estate he afterwards devised to his father, who survived him. I further produced the will of John Roy, senior, the father, which proved, that, on the decease of his son John without issue, and by virtue of that son's will, he took possession of the Woodland estate, which he enjoyed during the term of his natural life, and which devolved, after his death, in failure of male issue, on his daughter Frances, then wife of Samuel Rolle, of Heanton in Devonshire. Mr. Rolle, on the death of his wife without surviving issue, became entitled, and sold the estate to Mr. Seymour of the Hanaper Office, who, dying the 9th of January, 1769, aged seventy-five years, bequeathed it to his nephew, Sir Henry Munro, Bart. Sir Henry, about the year 1785, sold the property to the late Earl of Shaftesbury, and it is now in the possession of the present representative of that noble family. Although the evidence by which I established these facts was conclusive, nevertheless, the door was still open to George Hastings, who would have had a patient and impartial hearing, if either himself or his agents had mustered hardihood enough to come forward. I next proceeded to show the extinction of the several remaining individuals of the Woodland line; and at the close of this day's business, I had got over almost all my difficulties in the way of evidence.

Sir Samuel had an appointment to fulfil in another quarter at three o'clock in the afternoon of this day, and he had examined all the documents I then had ready, save one will, with which a Proctor from the country was in attendance, when the clock unluckily announced the third hour, and his clerk reminded him of his engagement. He started up at the intimation, and plumply refused to receive or inspect another paper, expressing, at the same time, his displeasure that I should detain him to the last moment. The Proctor, however, I foresaw, would be detained in London, probably for

some weeks, at my noble client's expense, if not then discharged, so I determined to set him afloat, and to effect this purpose, had recourse to the following venial, if not innocent stratagem. As Sir Samuel was hurrying out of the apartment, I ventured to catch his arm, and begged he would listen to me for half a moment. He stopped, but not without vast impatience of gesture, while I, pointing to the Proctor, who was a rusty bachelor, and who stood by holding the will alluded to in his hand, proceeded, with all the gravity and sympathy requisite for the occasion, to state, that that gentleman had performed a journey of upwards of one hundred and thirty miles without resting a moment, lest he should disappoint the parties, notwithstanding that he left his beloved wife and son at home, it was greatly to be feared, on their death-bed, ill of a most malignant distemper ; that his case was, indeed, a most pitiable one ; and that, under such circumstances of domestic distress, it would be more than charitable to dismiss, and worse than cruel to detain, him. After a short struggle, in which humanity speedily put etiquette *hors de combat*, for his generous and kind heart would not allow him to delay the supposed unhappy man from his suffering family a moment beyond what was necessary, Sir Samuel resumed his seat, took his notes, made the necessary abstract from the original instrument, and discharged the worthy Proctor, who, however, would have had no objection to remain in London a month on the conditions of his visit. Before Sir Samuel left the room he censured my stupidity for not appealing sooner in favour of the afflicted man, that he might have dispatched his business in the early part of the day, and benevolently apologized to the Proctor, who stammered out all sorts of disclaimers, endeavouring to make himself heard, but in vain. As soon as he had disappeared, my friend the Proctor, who stood all the time in a paroxysm of amazement at my effrontery, recovering

his stunned faculties, demanded, not exactly in the tone of gratitude or compliment, "What devil had induced me to tell the Attorney-General that he had a sick wife and child?" "God be praised," ejaculated he, in rather a more pious and self-complacent strain, "God be praised, I am a bachelor, and never knew the vexations of either the one or the other, much less the grievous calamities which you have chosen to saddle me with." This exculpatory effusion excited the risibility of all present, who were highly diverted by the solemn manner in which our *Benedict* denied the sin of matrimony.

The claim of Mr. George Hastings now became matter of mirth and ridicule, rather than solicitude or alarm; and I endeavoured, more from a motive of curiosity, than through any fears I entertained of him or his agents, to procure some insight as to the precise grounds upon which he hoped to make a stand, if indeed he was so weak as to entertain any hopes on the subject. Through a particular channel of information I was able to learn, that he depended much, and chiefly, on two things; first, that there were no administration act books kept in the time of Oliver Cromwell; and, secondly, on a *will*, alleged to have been made by John Hastings, of Woodlands, his pretended ancestor. This testamentary document, a copy of which I have seen, in the hand-writing, as I was informed, of the claimant, is dated in 1662, four years after the real John Hastings was actually buried. Notwithstanding this unlucky blunder in chronology, it was very circumstantial in stating his residence and pedigree, setting forth that he was then of Carrigolish, in the kingdom of Ireland, but late of Woodlands in the county of Dorset, and that he was fourth son of Sir George Hastings, eldest son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, &c. &c. It further stated that his beloved wife's name was *Isabella*, another awkward and indigestible oversight, as the wife of the real John Hastings was called



*Elizabeth.* With respect to the administrations also, it appears, the advisers of Mr. Hastings reckoned without their host. There was no calendar of administrations, it is true ; but they found, too soon, that the administration act books were forthcoming. In these books there were two entries relative to John Hastings, which proved that he died in Woodlands, in Dorset, in the year 1658, and not in the bogs of Carrigolish, in 1662. These trifling discrepancies were not easily reconciled by any ordinary process of law or justice ; and with every possible respect for the legal and logical ingenuity of my opponents, I am free to confess my suspicions, that it would have been a difficult task to convince the Attorney-General, that a man, who had been “ quietly inurned,” in Dorsetshire, in 1658, would “ burst his cerements ” four years after, step over to Carrigolish, a posthumous emigrant, on a broom-stick, I suppose, and fabricate a will, out of pure gratuitous kindness towards persons, who, during his life-time, he had never, in all likelihood, so much as heard of. Not having any children himself, perhaps the mystery may be explained by supposing, that he was anxious to adopt those of others, which, it appears by the precious composition in question, he did by wholesale, having seized an entire lot of them at once to provide against contingencies.

The Attorney-General now appointed the 29th of May for a final hearing, and ordered Messrs. Evans and Bartram to be noticed to that effect. When the day arrived, they were absent as usual, and I was allowed to go on with the evidence auxiliary to my noble client's claim, which then might have been considered virtually established. I this day produced, for the first time, that invaluable letter written by the late Countess Dowager of Moira, mother of the present Marquis of Hastings, to her kinsman, Archdeacon Hastings, of Newtonbutler, in Ireland, together with the

accompanying affidavit of the Reverend Anthony Hastings, proving the letter to be genuine. The following are accurate copies of both :

“ April 18, 1803, Castle Forbes, Longford.

“ I take, Sir, an early opportunity to acknowledge the favour of your letter, and to answer these particulars it contains for your information as you have therein desired; but, first, let me mention, that I regret it is so long since I had the pleasure of seeing you, being always happy to see any of my relations, and retaining for my excellent friend and kinsman, the late Archdeacon Hastings, the most attached friendship and cordial remembrance.

“ As to the branch of your family, long since, and before there was the most distant prospect of my becoming the representative of the family, I had discoursed upon that subject, as to the time at which his ancestors settled in this kingdom, with a Mr. John Hastings, (your uncle I believe,) who promised me some memorandums. But he died of a fever, and the Archdeacon, his brother, said the memorandums he was preparing were lost.

“ I recollect he told me that the first of his family who came over was in the reign of King James the First, and was a Bishop, but I have never been able to discover in what diocese; and he might have been appointed, and yet not live to take possession of that appointment. That he came over to Ireland I thus account for: Lady Dorothy Hastings married Sir Richard Devereux, who died in the life-time of his father, then styled Lord Ferrars, of Chertley, and whose eldest son, by that lady, was Walter Devereux, first Earl of Essex, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who died (as it was supposed, poisoned,) in that station. Francis Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon,\*

\* Second Earl.

brother to Lady Dorothy, had several sons, of whom Henry succeeded him, and died without issue; then George, who continued the line of Earls till my late brother's day. Edward\* was the third son, and he married Barbara Devereux, his cousin, daughter of a younger son of Lady Dorothy Hastings, and Sir Richard Devereux. Edward left a numerous issue, and thus—during the power of the favourite Earl of Essex, or during that of Blount, Lord Mountjoy, Earl of Devonshire, who was married to Lady Penelope Devereux, sister to that Earl of Essex, and the divorced wife of Lord Rich, afterwards Earl of Warwick, of that name—that the near relations of the Devereux family should be brought over to Ireland, and induced to settle therein, is most probable. My friend the Archdeacon told me, that an uncle of his was stationed in some Government in the East Indies; and there is now in the family a writing box of cedar, inlaid with ivory and ebony, with the family arms, which was sent over to my aunt, Lady Elizabeth Hastings, in the beginning of the last century, from such a person; and I was once in company (full fifty years ago) with a person, who mentioned having been at the place where he was stationed to govern; and though he had been long dead, his memory there still remained idolized for worth, humanity, and every virtue a mortal could possess.

“ My grandfather, Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, raised a regiment, and made his then nearest relation the Lieutenant-Colonel of it. This person behaved with the greatest baseness and treachery towards his benefactor. My grandfather had kept faithful to his sovereign, King James, who, when his Queen was on the point of being brought to bed of her last child at St. Germain's, wrote

\* Ancestor of the present Earl.

letters to several of the first people in England to come over to France and attend the birth of the child, to disprove the currently propagated lie of the warming-pan story.\* Lord Huntingdon, upon receiving his letter, sent it, as soon as the then dilatory posts allowed, up to court, not displeased at such a contradictory proof of their assertions. But the letter had been opened in the post-office; and Lieutenant-Colonel Hastings proffered to go down and arrest him; as, in a country where my grandfather was much beloved, and one where the people were much attached to King James, it might occasion insurrection. This he performed with an insolence equal to his secret perfidy, and carried off his prisoner to the Tower of London. He was requited with the regiment my grandfather had raised; but all the officers, except one Ensign, threw up their commissions, for they consisted of friends, or relations. In a very short space, however, afterwards, this Colonel Hastings was broke, by a vote of the House of Commons, for speculation and malversation in the conduct of that regiment. He had married a daughter of Coote, Lord Colooney, and hid himself in Ireland, supported there by party spirit, which ever sanctifies all actions that

\* The following curious affidavit of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, has reference to the story to which her Ladyship here alludes:

“ Upon Trinity Sunday, the 10th of June, 1688, I went to St. James’s House about nine o’clock in the morning, and followed my Lord Chancellor through the lodgings to the dressing-room, next to the Queen’s bed-chamber, where divers Lords of the Council were met upon occasion of the Queen’s being in labour. The King came several times into the room, and amongst other things was pleased to tell us, “ *That the Queen came exactly according to her first reckoning,*” which was from the King’s return from his progress to Bath in September, 1687. After this, the Counsellors were ordered to come into the bed-chamber, and as I stood on that side of the bed that had the curtains drawn open, I heard her Majesty cry out several times. I staid in the room during the birth of the Prince of Wales. I saw him carried into the little bed-chamber, whither the King, the Lords, and myself, in particular, did follow him.

“ HUNTINGDON.”

its partisans perform. He had one daughter who ran away with the Ensign who had approved of her father's conduct, and whose name was also Hastings, and from that marriage the Hastings in the county of Limerick are descended.

“ A gentleman,\* who holds a living on my son's estate, is most undoubtedly the next heir to the Earldom; he was educated for the church by Mr. Wheeler, who was son to the famous traveller, Sir George Wheeler, and married to one of my aunts. This person, my father's godson, and even older than I am, never married. His brother was educated with a younger brother of mine, and then went from serving in a marching regiment into the guards, and, though obliged, in consequence of ill-health, to sell out of the army himself, he has several sons in the army and navy. The claims of this branch were acknowledged by my father and all my family, and the proofs were delivered to my late brother, Francis, last Earl of Huntingdon. But they are not able to bring forward any claim, and I am in no way able to assist them, though convinced of their just right. They are the descendants, it is said, of Edward Hastings and Barbara Devereux; but I never saw the statement of their claim. My aunt, Lady Anne Hastings, however told me, she had given the proofs to my deceased brother, and my father always assented to their having the claim of presumptive heirs. There were a Francis and a Walter Hastings, two younger sons, who both left numerous issue; they were the younger brothers of Edward Hastings. The descendants of Walter I was well acquainted with. The grandfather of the line of that race was first Captain in my grandfather's regiment, and was one of those, who threw up their commissions sooner than serve under the man who had behaved to his

\* The Reverend Theophilus Hastings, uncle to the present Earl of Huntingdon.

relation and benefactor as the Lieutenant-Colonel had done. He lived with my grandfather till the time of his death. His wife (a woman of very good family, who was related to my grandmother, and was her companion,) had married him for love, and being a woman of an independent spirit, after my grandfather's death, wanted her husband to go into business. As he would not consent to this, she undertook that task herself, and thereby brought up and educated a large family. Her eldest son she put into the army; another in the law; and others into trade; all behaving respectably, and succeeding in their different pursuits, except one dying at an early period. The son of her eldest son pretended to the heirship, and, getting amongst the Methodists, and supposing that my mother, the late Lady Huntingdon, would support him on that account, he attempted to set up a claim to the title. I have seen a small Methodist Work, entitled, 'The Godly End, and Dying Words, of George Lord Hastings.' Some of his family applied to me to support this claim by my evidence. I informed them I wished well to that branch, more so than to that of the true claimants; but my information would go to show, that they could not have any manner of right, till it was first proved, that all the descendants of Edward Hastings, and Francis Hastings, fourth and fifth sons of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, were extinct; the eldest son, named William, supposed to have died young.

“ Writing from that lassitude which advanced life always produces, and from the additional impediment of being subject to a complaint in my eyes, must stand as an excuse for my pen being so incapable, as it appears to be in these lines, to deliver the memorandums I have committed to paper. Since I have become the representative of that ancient race, from which I descend, I have engaged myself in researches respecting it, founded upon the tra-

ditional knowledge I before possessed. The original arms of the family were a Field, Or, Maunch, Gules. In the reign of Henry the Fourth, in consequence, as they thought, of an unjust decision in the Earl Marshal's Court, refusing to bear the mark of a degree of inferiority assigned to them, they emblazoned their arms, but tenaciously retained the colours of them in their liveries, till my father's days, and preserved the history of their reasons for doing so. I give no liveries that I may not appear to relinquish them, the liveries being anciently always the blazon of the arms. As thirty years are allowed, one with another, for the courses of descent, the already mentioned Governor Hastings (I think his name was Thomas) might be grandson to Edward Hastings and Barbara Devereux, and consequently great grandson to Francis, Earl of Huntingdon.

“ In the line of Edward Hastings, the claim to the title, without doubt, now rests; and I have not a doubt, from all that I have heard affirmed by my father and aunts, that the clergyman, Mr. Theophilus Hastings, is the heir to the title, and, after him, his brother, and that brother's children are presumptive heirs. By this time, having wearied you with a tedious detail, I shall only express my hopes of the pleasure of seeing you when you may chance to come to Dublin, and when I return to my residence there. But at my age, and the hereditary disposition to sudden dissolution, I esteem the tenure of my existence of a very precarious nature. I request my best remembrances to your daughter, whom I have the pleasure of being acquainted with, and my compliments to Mrs. Hastings, and the rest of your family :

“ And remain, Sir,

“ Your faithful humble servant, and kinswoman,

“ E. MOIRA, HASTINGS, &c. &c.”

(The Affidavit.)

“ County of } Anthony Hastings, Rector of Kilmacrenan, in said  
 Donegal. } county, came this day before me, one of his Majesty’s  
 Justices of the Peace for said county, and made oath on the Holy  
 Evangelists, that the above letter was written by the late Countess  
 of Moira to his father, the present Dean Hastings, of Newtown-  
 butler, in the county of Fermanagh.

“ Sworn before me this 28th of November, 1817.

“ JOHN COCHRAN.

“ ANTHONY HASTINGS.”

The Attorney-General perused this valuable *morceau* with great attention ; and having previously seen all the evidence which was to support my noble client’s claim, he was now, perhaps, still more strongly confirmed in the conviction that our cause was just. He took abstracts from it, and then returned it to me, observing, that it was a production which did great credit to the old lady’s memory. I this day also produced the old family arms, carved on oak, before alluded to, as having lain so long in Mr. Pryer’s possession, together with a proper affidavit, stating by whom, and for what reason, they had been confided to that gentleman’s care. This venerable relic of “ hoar antiquity,” seemed to speak with the voice of departed days, and to add its dumb but eloquent appeal, like a spirit risen from the grave, in confirmation of the justice of our cause : however we needed no ghost from the tomb to tell us that. I next, and finally, put in several affidavits, explanatory of the general traditional repute of that part of the country, of which my client’s



family were natives, and the common consent of public opinion, always considering them as rightful heirs to the succession. Having thus, at length, come to a conclusion, I now informed the Attorney-General, that I had no further proofs to produce, and that I relied on the mass of evidence already before him as abundantly sufficient to establish the claim of my noble client. Sir Samuel hereupon observed to the several persons then in attendance, that he felt it an act of justice to Mr. Bell to declare, he had never known a case conducted with more zeal, integrity, and ability, and that he was satisfied, the same diligence and talent which had succeeded in surmounting the difficulties that had to be contended with in the prosecution of that claim, would enable him to draw a correct and connected statement of the evidence adduced. Sir Samuel then withdrew, having first desired me to attend him the following morning at his house, in order that he might talk to me further on the subject.

The moment he made his exit, Mr. Townsend, who was among the persons present, observed, in his usual strain, that, notwithstanding he must allow my success was so far complete, yet the Attorney-General had by no means said, that he would report *smack* for my noble client. On the contrary, he was certain, Sir Samuel would not be induced, under any circumstances, to take such vast responsibility on his head. To this incorrigible croaker I replied somewhat in the temper of Hotspur, "pestered with a popinjay," affirming, that I believed the Attorney-General to be an honest man, and that if he sent us to the House of Lords without sufficient cause, he would not be entitled to that most honourable of all appellations, "the noblest work of God." I then, in a very

laconic but emphatic way, expressed my positive determination to put the whole of the papers, connected with the business, into the fire, before I would submit to be transferred over to the Committee of Privileges for a decision.

Next day, agreeable to his request, I waited on the Attorney-General, who began by questioning me as to my capacity for drawing a draft of the Report, as far as related to the statement of the evidence, and whether I was disposed to undertake that duty. I replied, that the matter did indeed seem rather difficult, so far as regarded the proper arrangement and clear application of each particular branch of the proofs which had been adduced, but that my best and most diligent endeavours should be exerted to accomplish the task, and justify the highly flattering confidence with which he was pleased to honour me. "Possibly," said Sir Samuel, as we parted, "you will be able to accomplish this business in three months; if you do, I shall be satisfied, for I could not, and attend to my other avocations, official and professional, finish it perhaps, in less than a year." I now retired in triumph, with at least the materials of victory, and hastening to Lord Huntingdon, made him acquainted with the prosperous train of our affairs. As I had not enjoyed scarce even a momentary respite from labour since the August preceding, a space of nearly nine months, I allowed myself at this juncture the relaxation of a few holidays, after which I again girt up my loins, and sat down to the prosecution of my remaining duty in good earnest.

I began the draft on the 4th of June, and was getting smoothly on, thinking, "good easy man, full surely my greatness was a ripening," when, on the 6th, I was interrupted by the unwelcome intelligence, that George Hastings, the counter-claimant, had at

last sent in his petition, so long hatching, to the Prince Regent, who immediately referred it to the Attorney-General. Sir Samuel apprized me, without loss of time, of this manœuvre of the enemy, and, when I waited on him, expressed his determination to grant my competitors a hearing, of which they were duly noticed forthwith. Several successive days were appointed for their attendance, but no Evans and Bartram appeared. "Another came, and yet another still, nor at New Street, nor Chancery Lane, were they." In the interim, I proceeded at intervals, to arrange and combine my materials, and in less than three weeks completed a regular digest of the evidence. This expedition, effected by consuming the midnight oil, and sacrificing the ordinary hours of repose, not a little surprised Sir Samuel, who, however, as my opponents still abused his patience and justice with plausible tales of their intention and competency to prove every thing in favour of their client, thought it better to defer reading the draft till they had either come forward, or formally declined the contest. Thus, the month of June, and part of July, were suffered to glide away. The parliament, in the mean time, was dissolved, and my noble client's accession to his seat in the House of Peers thrown back for another session. It was then the policy of the advisers of Mr. Hastings became obvious to us. At that time about twenty-nine years had elapsed since the death of the late Earl, and their object as we believed was, by making this diversion, to prolong the period of abeyance to thirty years, as in that case certain statutes would have full operation. They dreaded the consequences of our success, no doubt, for very substantial reasons, although, I believe they had no definite idea of the danger; but to ruin my client by protracted litigation seemed to be the immediate object, whatever remote and contingent views they might have contemplated. The result, how-

ever, thank God, has deeply disappointed them and their abettors, if any they had.

At this period the Attorney-General being about to retire for some short time to the country, notified his intention to Evans and Bartram, and that he would not remain in town to be trifled with any longer. Again they promised to attend him at an early day, and again disappointed him. Sir Samuel's patience being at last fairly worn out, he left London; and not more than a day or two after his departure, Mr. George Hastings, the claimant, *in propria persona*, accompanied by his brother-in-law, the *soi-disant* Sir William Read, arrived from Ireland. On his arrival, Mr. Hastings conferred with his professional agents, and consulted eminent Counsel, as to the real grounds of the claim set up for him, and in which he himself appeared to be but a mere passive instrument. He had then an opportunity of seeing with his own eyes the true posture and drift of affairs; and, having satisfied himself that he had no manner of chance to success, because he had no shadow of right, he waited on me, and, like an honest, sensible man, declared his unwillingness, so far as he was personally implicated, to give further trouble to me or my client, producing at the same time a formal notice to that effect, with a letter in a correspondent tone, both of which, he said, he intended to address to the Attorney-General. The following are copies of these two documents:

"SIR,

"London, 17th August, 1818.

"I arrived here on the first of this month, and, unfortunately for me, found you had left town a few days preceding. I sincerely hope I have not been the cause of detaining you in London beyond the time you intended to remain. As to my claim to the Earldom of Huntingdon, I have laid my case, and the documents I had to

support it, before my Counsel, and, as they were not entirely satisfied, I think it more prudent for me to return home, than to remain in London to prosecute an object which might not eventually prove successful. I am the more influenced to act thus, as I am an old man, and childless. Requesting you will pardon any unnecessary trouble I may have given, I shall take my leave, and beg that my petition may be no longer an obstacle in the way of Hans Francis Hastings, or any other person claiming the Earldom of Huntingdon.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Your most obedient and humble servant,

“ GEORGE HASTINGS.”

“ To the Attorney-General,  
16, New Street, Spring Gardens.”

(Notice.)

“ EARLDOM OF HUNTINGDON.

“ SIR,

“ Take notice that I withdraw the caveat entered by Messrs. Evans and Bartram, my solicitors, and my petition, in my claim to the above Peerage; and that I no longer authorize Messrs. Evans and Bartram, or any other person or persons, to proceed for me, or in my name, in claiming the aforesaid Earldom. London, 17th August, 1818.

“ GEORGE HASTINGS, of Killaloo,  
County of Clare, Ireland, the Petitioner.”

“ To His Majesty's Attorney-General,  
Sergeants' Inn, Chancery Lane.”

Before I dismiss the claim of Mr. George Hastings, I conceive myself called on, in justice to his character and to my own feelings,

to state my belief, that he was, all along, made the dupe and tool of a party, to whose views he was induced to lend himself, under the influence of hopes and promises of the most chimerical nature. From the conversations I had with him, I am satisfied he never entertained a serious idea of success as to the title, whatever other advantages he might have been taught to anticipate. His claim, however unfounded, was, I find, agitated, and attempted to be established, once before, namely, in the year 1819. On that occasion, I have been told, the Marquis of Hastings, and Lady Charlotte Rawdon, lent him their assistance, with what views, or under what influence, knowing what they must have known, is a problem which time may solve. Mr. Hastings stated to me, how truly I know not, that her Ladyship gave him abstracts of deeds, a copy, or what purports to be a copy, of one of which I have in my possession ; but I am free to say I entertain strong suspicions it was about as genuine an instrument as the ingenious posthumous will of John Hastings formerly alluded to. However, I am *yet* only permitted to glance at these matters ; and I must not allow myself to forget, while doing him justice, that there is also some delicacy due to the feelings of others.

Mr. Hastings's retreat was so abrupt and uncereemonious, that, as I have since been assured, it was without the knowledge even of his own agents, who only heard it through the medium of the *Courier*. This journal mentioned the circumstance of his departure from London, and the formal relinquishment of his pretensions as tantamount to the legal substantiation of my noble client's claim. Shortly after, there appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*, the following shifting and flimsy paragraph, apparently intended to draw us into a paper war, which, however, we felt it due to our dignity to decline. The doubts and prejudices sought to be excited in this composition, notwith-

standing the tacit but reluctant admission of our right to the title implied in it, as well as the injurious act in which the writer at last finds refuge and consolation, sufficiently indicate the quarter whence it emanated.

“**EARLDOM OF HUNTINGDON.**—In answer to a paragraph, which has appeared in the *Courier* of the 9th instant, a correspondent remarks, that, although the noble party’s friends assert his hereditary claim to be now legally substantiated, no claim to a peerage can be deemed so, until it has received the sanction of the House of Lords, which in this case was not done previous to the closing of the last Session of Parliament. Therefore his Lordship’s claim cannot as yet be called substantiated. It is further to be remarked that, until such a claim comes before the House of Peers, all contradiction is superfluous. There are many branches of that ancient house, which must be proved extinct before the present case can be established, and the noble claimant may find more difficulty than he is aware of to prove their extinction. It is not to be presumed that the House of Peers will not investigate that point accurately, or that they will lightly sanction any claim while a prior one may exist. They will, most probably, from the high and honourable line they take in all business which comes before them, be first satisfied, that their decision can injure no one.\* The ablest Counsel can only advise on the points laid before them; and it has often occurred, that the extinction of branches has been more difficult to prove, than the succession of those which survive. But whatever may become of the title, we are confidently informed, that none of the Leicestershire property will be taken from the present possessors, the late Earl of

\* This, no doubt, is all very fine in the way of compliment and theory; but the implied principle, strictly acted upon, would, I humbly apprehend, prove very embarrassing in judicial practice, as no court could ever come to any decision at all, on any case, if they must wait to satisfy their consciences that such decision *could injure no one*.

Huntingdon having suffered a fine and recovery as far back as the year 1753, and left his estates to his nephew, the present Marquis of Hastings."

Another paragraph, equally silly and malicious, which appeared in a Dublin newspaper on the same occasion, I will add, merely to show the vivacious enmity, and blundering incredulity or misrepresentation, which we had to encounter from concealed enemies both in Ireland and England.

"**EARLDOM OF HUNTINGDON.** In reply to a paragraph published in the *Courier*, we are authorized to state, that the return of Mr. Hastings to the county of Clare did not arise from his having withdrawn his claims to the above ancient and illustrious title, but that his return in company with his friend, the Reverend Sir William Read, Bart. who accompanied him to London, was in consequence of the Attorney-General, before whom it was necessary to commence the usual proceedings, having been in Paris; and not being expected for some time, the return of Mr. Hastings became essential to his private concerns in this country. Notwithstanding the early proceedings stated in the *Courier*, as taken by Hans Francis Hastings, to ennoble himself and his infant 'Robin Hood,' the right of Mr. Hastings, of Clare, to the Earldom, will be so clearly defined next session of parliament, as to relieve his noble competitor from the novel incumbrance he aspires to."

Towards the expiration of September, the Attorney-General returned from his rural excursion; and, on the 30th of that month, I wrote to him, stating that I was prepared, and anxiously wished to be permitted, to lay the draft of the Report before him, to the consideration of which, nothing now presented an impediment, Mr. George Hastings having left us in peaceable possession of the field. To this I received a polite reply expressing compliance, and, in a day or two after, we began to compare the draft with his notes,



reading both carefully together. Before many days, the necessary corrections were made, and the revision completed. I then produced a fair copy, to which he added the two concluding clauses in his own hand-writing, and signed, giving it to me for my own private use, and for the satisfaction of my noble client. On the 29th of October, I waited upon Sir Samuel with the Report in a perfect and appropriate form,

“ Fit for the just and generous son  
Of Royalty to look upon.”

After duly examining and comparing it, according to his usual habits of official exactness, he gave it the sanction of his signature, and, on the same day, sent it in to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, through the Secretary of State for the Home Department. The following is an accurate copy of the Report, which will exhibit, in a more detailed and regular way than I could otherwise introduce in a narrative of this description, the multifarious mass of evidence collected and adduced on the occasion :

### REPORT.

To his Royal Highness George Prince Regent, acting for and on behalf of his Majesty.

May it please your Royal Highness,

IN obedience to your Royal Highness's commands, signified to me the twenty-second day of January last by the Viscount Sidmouth, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, referring to me the consideration of the petition of Hans Francis Hastings, Esq. claiming the Earldom of Huntingdon, and praying that your Royal Highness will be graciously pleased to grant him a Writ of Summons as a Peer to Parliament in respect to the same,

I have considered his petition, and have been attended by his Solicitor, and by Francis Townsend, Esq. Windsor Herald, and I have received evidence in support of the allegations therein contained.

Before I proceed to state the substance of this petition, and the evidence produced to me in support of this claim, it is necessary I should state, after I had been attended several times by the Solicitor of the said Hans Francis Hastings, and had heard part of

the evidence in support of his claim, that a petition on behalf of George Hastings, of Killaloo, in the county of Clare, in the kingdom of Ireland, Esq. claiming to be entitled to the titles, honours, and dignities, of Earl of Huntingdon, presented by Messrs. Evans and Bartram, as solicitors and agents of the said George Hastings, praying that no further proceedings on the petition of the said Hans Francis Hastings might take place, until the said George Hastings should be able to sign and present his petition, asserting his claim, and that he should be allowed to adduce his proofs in support thereof, in order that the conflicting claims to the said honours and dignities might be considered together, was on the 6th of June, transmitted to me for my consideration, by the Viscount Sidmouth. This petition, however, has been since withdrawn by Mr. George Hastings, who, on the 17th of August, served me with a notice, of which the following is a copy:—

“ EARLDOM OF HUNTINGDON.

“ SIR,

“ Take notice, that I withdraw the caveat entered by Messrs. Evans and Bartram, my solicitors, and my petition in my claim to the above Peerage, and that I no longer authorize Messrs. Evans and Bartram, or any other person or persons, to proceed for me, or in my name, in claiming the above Earldom. London, 17th August, 1818.

“ GEORGE HASTINGS, of Killaloo, County of Clare,  
“ Ireland, the Petitioner.”

“ To his Majesty's Attorney-General,  
Sergeants' Inn, Chancery Lane.”

I will therefore now proceed to state the petition of Hans Francis Hastings, and the evidence adduced in support of the same.

The Earldom of Huntingdon, claimed by the petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, is stated to have been created by certain Letters Patent under the Great Seal of England, dated 8th day of December, in the twenty-first year of King Henry VIII. advancing George, who appears by the enrolment of the Letters Patent, to have formerly been George Lord Hastings, to the dignity of an Earl, by creating him Earl of Huntingdon, with limitation to the heirs male of his body; and the petition states, that under such Letters Patent, the petitioner is entitled to said Earldom, as the surviving heir male of the body of the said George, the first Earl.

This petition then states, that George, so created Earl of Huntingdon, married Ann, daughter of Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, and left issue five sons, namely, Sir Francis, his eldest son and heir, and four younger sons.

That Sir Francis, the eldest son of Earl George, became on the death of his father, second Earl of Huntingdon, and on the 3d June, 1554, married Catherine, granddaughter of George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence, by whom he had six sons, namely, Henry his eldest son, George, his second son, William, his third son, who died without issue, Sir Edward Hastings, his fourth son, the ancestor of the petitioner Hans Francis Hastings, and two younger sons. That Henry, the first son of Francis, Earl of Hunting-

don, on the death of his father, became third Earl of Huntingdon, and married Catherine, daughter of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, and died without issue, 14th of November, 1595, whereupon his brother George succeeded to the title, as fourth Earl of Huntingdon, and that he married Dorothy, daughter of Sir John Port, of Etwall, in the county of Derby.

The petition states, that the title descended to the male issue of George, the fourth Earl of Huntingdon, till the death of Francis, the last Earl, in October, 1789, when the male issue of George, the fourth Earl of Huntingdon, became extinct.

The petition states, that George, the fourth Earl of Huntingdon, had three sons: Francis, Lord Hastings; the Honourable Henry Hastings, described as Sir Henry Hastings of Woodlands; and Sir Edward Hastings, Knight, who died unmarried.

The petition states, that Francis Lord Hastings, the eldest son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon, died in the life-time of his father, leaving issue by his wife Sarah, daughter of Sir James Harrington, four sons; namely, Henry, his first son, Sir George his second son, who married Seymour, daughter of Sir Gilbert Prinn, and had by her issue four sons:—George, born April 22d, 1621, died June 1627, aged six years; Charles, born 29th of November 1623, stated to have died without issue in 1656; Ferdinando, born the 19th of January, 1626, stated to have died without issue in 1654; and Francis, his fourth son, stated to have been born on the 10th of December, 1628, and to have died at Weybridge in 1631, aged three years. Edward Hastings, the third son of Lord Francis Hastings, is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings, to have died without ever having been married, in the year 1617, a Captain at sea, under the command of Sir Walter Raleigh; and Francis the fourth son of Francis Lord Hastings, is stated to have died an infant.

The said petition sets forth, that Henry, the eldest son of Francis Lord Hastings, became fifth Earl of Huntingdon on the death of his grandfather, (George the fourth Earl of Huntingdon,) and that he married Elizabeth, daughter of the Earl of Derby, by whom he is stated to have left two sons, Ferdinando, his first son, and Henry, who is stated to have been created Baron Loughborough, and to have died without issue, in January, 1666.

The petition also states, that Ferdinando, the eldest son of Earl Henry, became sixth Earl of Huntingdon on the death of his father, in February 1655, that he married Lucy, daughter of Sir John Davies, by whom he had issue four sons:—Henry, his first son, stated in said petition to have been born on the 6th of June, 1630, and to have died in the life-time of his father; John, his second son, born 3d of August, 1682, who is also stated to have died in the life-time of his father, without issue; Ferdinando, his third son, born 16th of February in 1638, and who is also stated to have died in the life-time of his father; and Theophilus, his fourth son, born December the 10th, in 1650, stated in said petition to have succeeded to the title as seventh Earl of Huntingdon, and to have married two wives, first Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Lewis, and secondly, Frances, daughter of Francis Leviston Fowler. The said petition states, that the said Theophilus, the seventh Earl, by his first wife Elizabeth, had two sons, Thomas Lord Hastings, born in 1674, who died aged three months; and George, the second son, born March the 22d, 1677, who is stated to

have succeeded to the title as eighth Earl of Huntingdon, and to have died without ever having been married. And it is also stated in the said petition, that the said Theophilus, the seventh Earl, by his second wife, had issue two sons, first, Theophilus, stated to have been born 12th of November, 1696; and second, Ferdinando, stated to have been born 22d of October, 1699, and to have died without issue, on August the 9th, 1726.

The petition goes on to state, that Theophilus, the eldest son of Theophilus, the seventh Earl, by his second marriage, succeeded to the title as ninth Earl of Huntingdon upon the death of his half brother George, without issue; that he married Selina, daughter of Earl Ferrars, by whom he had issue four sons: Francis his first son, stated to have been born in March, 1728; George, his second son, stated to have been born 29th of March, in 1730, and to have died in 1744, aged fourteen years; Ferdinando, his third son, stated to have been born 22d of January, 1732, and to have died in 1743; and Henry, his fourth son, born December 12th, 1739, stated to have died without issue in 1743. Theophilus, the ninth Earl, is also stated to have left three daughters, the eldest of whom, Elizabeth, married John Lord Rawdon, whose eldest son is stated to be the present Marquis of Hastings.

The said petition states, that Francis, the eldest son of Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, succeeded to the title (on the death of his father) as tenth Earl of Huntingdon, and that he died without ever having been married, on the 2d of October, 1789.

The petition states, that long previous to this period, viz. in the year 1755, the heirs male of the body of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, who was second son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon, had also become extinct in the manner in said petition particularly set forth, and that Francis, the tenth Earl of Huntingdon, having died without issue, the said Earldom descended upon the then issue male of Sir Edward Hastings, the fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, the ancestor of the petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings.

His petition also states, that the said Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, married twice; first, Dorothy, second daughter of Sir Francis Willoughby, Knight; and secondly, Mrs. Jane Langton, by whom it is stated he had no issue.

The said petition further states, that the said Henry Hastings had issue by his first wife Dorothy, five sons, namely, Sir George Hastings, his first son, who is stated to have married Alice, daughter of Sir Thomas Freke, and to have had issue three sons: George, Edward, and John, who are stated to have all died without issue.

That Ralph Hastings, stated to have been the second son of said Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, married Joan Scutt, daughter of Edmund Scutt, of Warminster, and had issue four sons, namely, Henry, his first son, and George, his second son, who are both stated to have died without issue. Ralph Hastings, his third son, stated to have been married first, to Sarah, the daughter of Thomas Moore; secondly, to Sarah, the daughter of Roger Tulse; and this Ralph, by his first marriage, is stated to have had one daughter only; but by his second marriage with Sarah Tulse, he is stated to have had two sons, namely, Ralph Hastings, his eldest son, who married and died without issue: and George Hastings, his second son, who is stated to have died a bachelor in the 26th year of his age. And

Ferdinando, his fourth son. This Ferdinando, stated in said petition to have been the fourth son of Ralph Hastings and Joan his wife, is stated to have married Deborah, the daughter of Richard Flavel, by whom he had issue two sons: namely, Ferdinando, his first son, who is stated to have married Elizabeth, daughter of a Mr. Shepherd, by whom he had issue one daughter only, named Deborah, who married; and Theophilus Hastings, his second son, who is stated to have been born in 1677, and to have died without ever having been married in 1755.

The petition also states, that Henry Hastings was the third son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands; that he married Susanna, daughter of Robert Offey, by whom he had issue one daughter, Ann, and no male issue.

The petition also states, that William was the fourth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and that he married Ann, daughter of Gabriel Cracknell, of Oxford, by whom he is stated to have left issue five sons: namely, Henry Hastings, his first son, who married, and had issue two daughters only; William Hastings, his second son, who married Rebecca Pitfield, by whom he had issue one only son, Gabriel, who died without ever having been married, in 1689; Francis, his third son, stated to have married Ann Arnold, by whom he left issue one son, Francis, who is stated to have died in 1682, without ever having been married; Edward, his fourth son, who died in 1671, without ever having been married; and Benjamin, his fifth son, who is stated in said petition to have married Ann Browne, by whom he had issue one son, Henry Hastings, who is stated to have died in 1689, without ever having been married.

The petition further states, that Francis was the fifth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and that he married, and died without issue.

The petition of Hans Francis Hastings states, that the male descendants of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, the second son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon, thus became extinct, and that the said Earldom of Huntingdon, upon the death of Francis, the tenth and late Earl, became vested in the heir male of the body of Sir Edward Hastings, the fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, and from which Sir Edward Hastings, the said petitioner claims to be descended. His said petition states, that the said Edward Hastings married Barbara, daughter of Sir William Devereux, and died in the year 1603, leaving issue Sir Henry Hastings, of Humberston, Knight, his only son; and this Sir Henry is stated to have married Mabel, daughter of Anthony Faunt, by whom he had issue Henry Hastings, his eldest son, and three younger sons.

The said petition states, that Henry Hastings, the eldest son of Sir Henry Hastings, married Jane Goodall, by whom he is stated to have left issue five sons, namely, Henry, his eldest son, baptized at Humberston, 22d March, 1642, who married Pentecost Smally, and died without issue; Walter Hastings, his second son, stated to have been baptized at Humberston, 12th March, 1644, who married Hannah, daughter of Edmund Craddock, by whom he left issue one son, Henry Hastings, who died at Loughborough, in 1758, without ever having been married; Richard Hastings, his third son, stated in the said petition, to have been the great grandfather of the petitioner Hans Francis Hastings, and that he was baptized at Humberston, 5th May, 1645, and buried at Welford, in the county of Northampton, 30th October, 1714. It is stated that this Richard Hastings

married Sarah Sleath, by whom he had one only son Henry, and which Henry Hastings is stated, in the said petition, to have been baptized at Lutterworth, 22d May, 1701; to have married a Miss Elizabeth Hudson, on the 7th November, 1727, and to have left three sons: namely, Theophilus Henry Hastings, his first son, born and baptized at Lutterworth, 7th October, 1728, and who died without issue 2d April, 1804; George, his second son, stated in said petition to have been baptized at Lutterworth, 6th June, 1735; and Ferdinando, his third son, who died without ever having been married.

The said petition states, that George, the second son of said Henry Hastings, was a Lieutenant-Colonel of the third regiment of guards, and married a Miss Sarah Hodges, on the 2d of April, 1769, by whom it is stated, he left issue four sons; namely, Francis, his first son, stated to have been born in April, 1770, and to have died at the age of six years; Henry Hastings, his second son, born 22d July, 1774, stated to have died without ever having been married; Ferdinando, his third son, also stated to have died without ever having been married; and Hans Francis Hastings, his fourth son, the petitioner, born August the 14th, 1779, who thus states himself to be the heir male of the body of George, the first Earl of Huntingdon, and humbly prays your Royal Highness will take his case into consideration, and direct that a writ of summons may issue to summon him to parliament, under and by virtue of the terms of the patent, by the title of Earl of Huntingdon.

Having thus stated the matter alleged in the petition of the claimant, Hans Francis Hastings, Esq. and what the petitioner prays from your Royal Highness, I shall proceed to state the substance of the evidence laid before me in support of it.

To prove the creation of the Earldom of Huntingdon, an enrolment of letters patent, creating the said Earldom, were produced to me by Mr. Davis, from the Lord Treasurer Remembrancer's Office of the Exchequer, dated the eighth day of December, twenty-first of Henry VIII. enrolled in the Exchequer in Michaelmas Term, in the twenty-fifth of Henry VIII. reciting, that King Henry the Eighth, for divers considerations, had raised George Hastings, of Hastings, Knight, to the dignity of Earl of Huntingdon, to hold the same dignity to him and the heirs male of his body issuing, for ever.

To prove that this George Hastings, of Hastings, Knight, took his seat as an Earl in the House of Lords, under and by virtue of said patent of creation, the printed Journals of the Lords, of 1535, were produced to me by Francis Townsend, Esq. Windsor Herald, whereby it appears, that on the fifth day of the twenty-eighth of Henry VIII., he is marked thus: "P. Comes Huntingdon." The Christian name does not appear in the Journals, but Dugdale's Compilation of Writs of Summons to Parliament was produced to me, whereby it appeared, he was summoned to parliament, as Earl of Huntingdon, in the twenty-eighth of Henry VIII.; and in page 499 his name is thus entered, "Georgio Com. Huntingdon." There was also exhibited to me, by Francis Townsend, Esq. an original Visitation Book, compiled by virtue of a commission directed to Sir Henry St. George Clarenceux King of Arms, who deputed Thomas May, Chester, and Gregory King, Rouge-dragon, in Trinity vacation in 1682, to visit the county of Leicester; and which Visitation contains a pedigree of the family of the Earls of Huntingdon, brought down from William Lord Hastings, who was beheaded by order of King Richard III., to Theophilus, seventh

Earl of Huntingdon, who appears to have signed it in 1682; and it includes the issue of Theophilus, the seventh Earl, by his first wife. By this pedigree, it appears, that George Hastings was created Earl of Huntingdon in the year 1529, the twenty-first of King Henry VIII. That he married Ann, daughter of Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, by whom he had issue five sons, of whom Francis appears to have been his eldest son and heir, and that the said George, Earl of Huntingdon, died in the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Henry VIII. and was buried at Black Friars, London.

To prove that Francis was the eldest son of George, first Earl of Huntingdon, and succeeded his father, and sat in parliament as second Earl of Huntingdon, the printed Journals of the Lords were exhibited to me, and it appears by volume i. page 272, that he sat in parliament on the 7th December, in 1545. His Christian name does not appear in the Journals; but there was exhibited to me, Dugdale's Compilation of Writs of Summons, and in page 506 he is mentioned in the following terms: "Francisco Comiti Huntingdon;" and he appears to have sat in the parliament of the thirty-seventh of Henry VIII. There was also produced to me, by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, the original Visitation, containing the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, the seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682; by which it appears, that Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, married Catherine, daughter and co-heir of Henry Pole, Lord Montacute, son of Sir Richard Pole, Knight of the Garter, and Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, daughter of George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence, brother to King Edward IV., by whom he is stated to have had issue six sons, and to have been buried in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in 1651. There was also exhibited to me, by the Reverend William M'Dowell, Vicar of Ashby, the original registry of burials of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which there is an entry thus: "Buried 1562, Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, June 20."

To prove that Henry was the eldest son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, that he succeeded his father, and sat in parliament, the printed Journals of the Lords were produced to me, and it appears by volume i. page 582, that he sat in parliament the fifth of Elizabeth, on January the 15th, in 1562, "the Queen being present."—And he is also mentioned thus in Dugdale's List of Summonses—"Henrico Comiti Huntingdon." Mr. Townsend again exhibited to me, from the College of Arms, the original Visitation Book, containing the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon; whereby it appears, that the said Henry was the eldest son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon: that he married Catherine, the daughter of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, and died without issue, 14th December, 1595, in the thirty-eighth of Elizabeth, and was buried at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. There was also produced to me, by the Reverend William M'Dowell, the original registry of burials, from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which there is this entry: "1595, Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, buried April 28." And the fact of his having died without issue male appears to me to be satisfactorily proved by the succession of his brother George, as fourth Earl of Huntingdon.

To prove that George was second son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, (who was eldest son of George, first Earl of Huntingdon,) and that he succeeded to the title on the death of his brother Henry, without issue male, as fourth Earl of Huntingdon, the

printed Journals of the Lords of the thirty-ninth of Elizabeth, 21st November, 1597, were produced to me, in which an Earl of Huntingdon is thus mentioned, "P. Comes Huntingdon.;" and his Christian name is entered in page 535 of Dugdale's Summonses, thus, "Georgio Com. Huntingdon." There was also exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, the before-mentioned original Visitation, containing the pedigree signed by Theophilus, the seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, by which it also appears, that George succeeded to the Earldom of Huntingdon on the death of his elder brother Henry, and that he married Dorothy, daughter and co-heir of Sir John Port, by whom he had issue three sons, and died in December, 1604, and was buried in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in the county of Leicester. There was also produced to me by the Rev. William M'Dowell, Vicar, the original registry of burials of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which there is this entry, "Burials 1605, George Earl of Huntingdon, March 25."

To prove that Francis, Lord Hastings, was the eldest son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon, and died in the life-time of his father, there was again exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, by which it appears, that Francis, Lord Hastings, was the eldest son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon, and that he married the daughter of Sir James Harrington, by whom he had issue three sons, and that he died in December, 1595, in the thirty-eight of Elizabeth, and was buried at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. And there was also produced by the Rev. William M'Dowell, the original register of burials of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which there is this entry, "Obt. December, 1595, Francis Lord Hastings, b. April 28."

To prove that Henry was the eldest son of Francis, Lord Hastings, (who was the eldest son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon,) and that he succeeded to the title on the death of his grandfather, as fifth Earl of Huntingdon, the fourth volume of the printed Journals of the Lords, page 3, 4, of Carolus the First, in 1628, was exhibited to me, by which it appears, that Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, gave his proxy to "Henry, Earl of Manchester:" his name appears in the Journals, and also in Dugdale's Writs of Summons, page 544, thus, "Henrico Com. Huntingdon." There was also produced to me, by Mr. Townsend, the before recited pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, by which it appears, that said Henry, fifth Earl of Huntingdon, married Elizabeth, the daughter of Ferdinando Stanley, Earl of Derby, that he left issue by her two sons, and was buried at Ashby-de-la-Zouch the 16th December, 1643. There was also produced to me by the Rev. William M'Dowell, Vicar of Ashby, the original registry of burials from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which his burial is entered thus: "The Right Honourable Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, was interred the 16th day of December, in the year of our Lord God 1643, December 16."

To prove that Ferdinando was the eldest son of Henry, the fifth Earl of Huntingdon, and that he succeeded to said Earldom on the death of his father, as sixth Earl, and that he married, and left issue, the original registry of baptisms from Ashby-de-la-Zouch was produced to me by the Rev. William M'Dowell, in which there is this entry of his birth and baptism, "L. Ferdinando, sonne of the Right Honourable Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, was born the 18th of January, baptized 3d day of July next following; 1608."



To prove he sat in parliament as Baron Hastings, in the life-time of his father, the Journals of the Lords were exhibited to me; and it appears by vol. vi. page 95, that he sat in parliament on the 21st of November, 1640, and his sitting is mentioned in these words: "Die Sabbati, videlicet 21 die Nov. Prayers. L. Hastings introduced. This day the Lord Hastings was introduced in his robes, between the Lord Mowbray and the Lord Strange; and after his Lordship had delivered on his knee, to the Lord Keeper, his writ of summons, dated the — day of —, it was delivered unto the Clerk; and then he was brought by the Lord Great Chamberlain and the Earl Marshal, and Garter before, and placed next below the Lord Dacres." And in Dugdale's Summonses, which were also produced to me, he is thus mentioned in page 562: "Ferdinando Hastings, chl'r. (Primogenito Henrici Comitiss de Huntingdon.)"

There was also produced the seventh volume of the Journals of the House of Commons, and in page 182 there is the following entry: "Wednesday the 15th of September, 1652." Mr. Garland reports an act for enabling the Right Honourable Ferdinando, Earl of Huntingdon, to make sale of the manor of Lowborow, in the county of Leicester, and certain other lands, tenements, and hereditaments, for payment of debts." And in the same volume, page 464, there is this entry: "Thursday, the 4th of December, 1656, a bill to confirm the sale of lands sold by Ferdinando, late Earl of Huntingdon, whereby he paid several debts, and for the sale of some other lands, for payment of the residue of his debts." And it further appears by the said volume, page 465, that the said Bill was committed on "Saturday, the 6th of December, 1656." He the said Ferdinando never took his seat in the Lords, as Earl of Huntingdon, probably on account of the Usurpation, and he died before the Restoration. There was also exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, by which it appears, this Ferdinando was sixth Earl of Huntingdon; that he married Lucy, daughter of Sir John Davies, by whom he had issue four sons; that he died in February, 1655, and was buried at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. And there was further produced to me by the Rev. William M'Dowell, Vicar, the original register of burials from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which there is an entry of his burial in these terms: "1655, March 2, The Right Honourable Ferdinando, Earl of Huntingdon."

To prove that Henry, Lord Hastings, was the eldest son of Ferdinando, sixth Earl of Huntingdon; that he died in the life-time of his father, without leaving issue male, there was exhibited to me by the Rev. William M'Dowell, the original register of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which there is the following entry of his burial: "Henry, Lord Hastings, the eldest and last surviving son and heir apparent of the Earl of Huntingdon, July 7, 1649." There was again exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, in which he is thus mentioned: "Henricus Dñs Hastings, natus 16 Jan. 1630. Ob. 24 Jan. 1649. Sepultus apud Ashby, Cælebs." And by this said pedigree, it appears, he was the eldest son of Ferdinando, sixth Earl of Huntingdon.

To prove that John Hastings was the second son of Ferdinando, sixth Earl of Huntingdon; and that Ferdinando was his third son; and that they both died under age

without leaving issue, there was exhibited to me by the Rev. William M'Dowell, the original registry of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which it appears by the entry of the burial of their brother, Henry Lord Hastings, (before recited,) that he, Henry, was "the eldest and last surviving son of the Earl of Huntingdon." As a further proof, another entry in the said original register was exhibited to me, which states, "John, sonn of the Right Honourable Ferdinando Lord Hastings, and Lucy, his wife, buried 11th day of December, 1639." There was also exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, the original Visitation Book, containing the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, who was their younger brother, by which it appears, the said John Hastings, and Ferdinando Hastings, were the second and third sons of Ferdinando Hastings, sixth Earl of Huntingdon, and are thus mentioned: "Johannes natus 3d Aug. 1632; obiit Dec. 1639, Sep. apud Ashby. Ferdinando nat. 16 Feb. 1638; obiit 8 May, 1647, Sep. apud Castle Donnington." Their death, without their having left issue, is also satisfactorily proved by the succession to the Earldom of their brother Theophilus, the fourth son of Ferdinando, sixth Earl of Huntingdon, and who was the person who signed the pedigree in 1682; and who states, that he was not born till 1650, therefore must have been born after the decease of his three elder brothers, Henry, John, and Ferdinando Hastings.

To prove that Theophilus, the seventh Earl, was the fourth son of Ferdinando, sixth Earl of Huntingdon; that he succeeded his father as seventh Earl of Huntingdon, his three elder brothers being dead without leaving issue, and that he sat in parliament, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend the pedigree signed by this Theophilus, in 1682, by which it appears, he was born in Donnington Park, in the county of Leicester, the 10th of December, 1650; that he married Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir John Lewis, and had by her two sons: he does not mention his second wife, nor his children by her, as mentioned in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings, and it is therefore to be inferred that his first wife was living in 1682. To prove that he was Earl of Huntingdon, and a Peer in Parliament, the twelfth volume of the printed Journals of the Lords was produced to me by Mr. Townsend, by which it appears, in page 425, that "On the 10th of February, 1670, the House was called, and the Earl of Huntingdon was reported, "Infra ætatem;" and in the same volume, page 530, he is excused. To prove that he afterwards sat in parliament, there was exhibited to me an entry in the same volume, 15th February, twenty-fifth Charles the Second, in 1672. He then appears to have been present; and again, in the same volume, page 586, on the 20th of October, 1673, he is marked as present. To prove that he married twice, and had issue by his first, and also by his second wife, there was exhibited to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, his original will, bearing date the 18th day of April, 1698, and a codicil thereunto annexed, dated 15th March, 1699, proved 19th January, 1701. In the will, he appoints his wife Frances, to be guardian of his eldest daughter, the Lady Elizabeth Hastings, who by the pedigree signed by himself in 1682, appears to have been his daughter by his first wife, and whom he also in the will itself describes as a daughter of his late wife; and he devises the reversion and inheritance of his late wife's real estate; and in a distinct part of his

will, he appoints his wife guardian to his four children, Theophilus, Ann, Frances, and Catherine. In this will, he also states himself to be seized of the remainder in fee expectant upon the decease of George Lord Hastings, his son, and failure of his issue male; and in case of the failure of such issue male, he devises the same to Theophilus Hastings, his second son, and the heirs male of his body, and in default of such issue, to his heirs male for ever. In the codicil, dated the 13th March, 1699, he notices a son Ferdinando, who must therefore have been born between the time of the making the will and the codicil. It appears also by a pedigree produced to me by Mr. Townsend, and signed by Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, the widow of Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, and which pedigree was produced and admitted in evidence by the House of Lords, in the year 1812, on a claim of peerage of Lord Kilmurry, that Thomas Lord Hastings, and George Lord Hastings, were the sons of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, by his first wife; and Theophilus and Ferdinando were his sons by his second wife Frances. To prove that Thomas Lord Hastings was the eldest son of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, and that he died an infant, Mr. Townsend exhibited to me the pedigree, signed by the said Earl, the father of the said Thomas, in 1682, by which it appears he died, aged three months and eighteen days, and is thus mentioned, "Thomas Dñs Hastings, nat. 12 Nov. 1674; ob. 2d March, 1675; sep. apd. Ashby." There was also produced to me by the Rev. William M'Dowell, the original register of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, by which it appears this Thomas was born on 12th Nov. 1674; and was buried 4th March, 1675: his death is also to be inferred from the will of Earl Theophilus, his father, dated April, 1698, and proved in 1701, in which he names George, as his son, and Theophilus, as his second son, without noticing any son of the name of Thomas. To prove that George was the second son of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, as stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings; that he sat in parliament as heir of his father Theophilus, as eighth Earl of Huntingdon; and that he died without ever having been married, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree signed by Theophilus, the father of this George, in 1682, in which he is thus mentioned, "Georgius Dñs Hastings, natus 22d March, 1677, Jam superstes Aº. 1682." There was also produced to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, proved in 1701, in which he mentions this George as "George Lord Hastings, his son." To prove he sat as a peer in parliament, the sixteenth volume of the printed Journals of the Lords was produced to me, by which it appears in page 741, that an Earl of Huntingdon sat in the House of Lords on the 13th June, 1701, in the thirteenth of William the Third; in the entry he is called John; but I cannot but conclude this to be a mistake, as he is called George in the will of his father, and also in the pedigree signed by him in 1682. There was also exhibited to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of this George, Earl of Huntingdon, dated in 1705, in which he describes himself as George, Earl of Huntingdon, and bequeaths his estate to his brother Theophilus, stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings, to have been the eldest son of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, by his second marriage with Francis Leviston Fowler, and which, taken together with the fact

of his brother Theophilus having succeeded him in the title, shews he died without issue.

That Theophilus was the brother of George, eighth Earl of Huntingdon; that he was the son of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, is proved by the original will of his father, Theophilus, seventh Earl, produced to me, and proved in 1701, in which he mentions this Theophilus as his son, and appoints his wife Frances the guardian of his son. It is also proved by the will of George, eighth Earl of Huntingdon, proved in 1705, produced to me, in which he names his brother Theophilus, and devises to him his estates. To prove that this Theophilus, the ninth Earl, sat in Parliament, there was exhibited to me the twenty-second volume of the printed Journals of the Lords; and it appears in page 123, that he sat in parliament on the 20th of March, ninth of George the First. In the Journals of the Lords he is called, "Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, son of George;" but this is evidently a mistake, as appears by the will of his father Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, proved in 1701; and also by that of his brother George, eighth Earl of Huntingdon, proved in 1705, and by the pedigree from the College of Arms, signed by Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, the widow of this Theophilus, by which it appears, he was the eldest son of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, by his second marriage, therefore the brother and not the son of George, eighth Earl of Huntingdon, as erroneously stated in the Journals. There was also exhibited to me by Mr. Henry Nugent Bell, the Solicitor of the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, a copy (taken by himself) of a monument in the church of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, erected to the memory of "The Right Honourable Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Hastings, Hungerford, Botreux, Moels, Newark, and Molins;" by which it appears, that this Theophilus, left issue by his wife Selina, daughter of Washington, Earl Ferrara, four sons, and three daughters, and died on the 13th of October, 1746. There was also produced to me the original registry of burials from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which there is an entry of his burial in these terms: "1746: The Right Honourable Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, buried 28th of October."

To prove that Francis was the eldest son and heir of Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, as stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings; that he succeeded his said father as tenth Earl; and that he died without ever having been married, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Bell, the copy of the monument erected in the church of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, to the memory of Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, taken by Mr. Bell, and compared by him with the original, on which the said Francis is thus mentioned: "Francis, the present Earl, born March 13, 1729." To prove that he sat in the House of Lords, there was exhibited to me the twenty-eighth volume of the Journals of the Lords, by which it appears, in page 162, that he sat in parliament the 15th of November, in 1753, in the 27th of George the Second. There was also produced to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, his original will, dated 9th August, 1755, and proved 8th October, 1789, in which he takes no notice of any children, except a son, whom he calls his natural son, and who, as admitted by all, was not a legitimate child; and it is a notorious fact, in the family, that this Francis, the tenth Earl, was

never married. By this will he bequeaths to Lieutenant-Colonel George Hastings (the father of the petitioner) 1000*l*. There was also exhibited to me by the Rev. William M'Dowell, the original registry of burials of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which there is this entry of his burial: "1789: The Right Hoñble Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, buried October 14." From these circumstances, it appears to me to be clearly established, that Francis, the tenth and last Earl of Huntingdon, died without issue.

To prove that George Hastings was the second son of Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, (brother of Francis, tenth and late Earl,) that he died under age without ever having been married, Mr. Bell again produced to me the copy of the monument in Ashby-de-la-Zouch (erected to the memory of Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon,) taken by himself, by which it appears, that this George was the second son of Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, and is thus mentioned: "George born March 29, 1730, who died of the small-pox, aged 14." There was also exhibited to me the original registry of Westminster Abbey, by which it appears this George Hastings was buried on the 24th of December, 1743, and was therefore only fourteen years of age.

To prove that Ferdinando Hastings, stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the third son of Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, was his third son, and that he died under age, without ever having been married, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Bell, the copy of the monument before mentioned, erected to the memory of the Right Honourable Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, the father of this Ferdinando Hastings, by which it appears he is thus mentioned: "Ferdinando born January 23, 1732, who also died of the small-pox, aged 11." There was also exhibited to me the original register of burials from Westminster Abbey, by which it appears, the said "Ferdinando Hastings was buried the 25th April, 1743, in the North Cross of Westminster Abbey," therefore was only eleven years of age at the time of his death.

To prove that Henry Hastings, who is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the fourth son of Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, was his fourth son, and brother of Francis, late Earl of Huntingdon, and that he died without ever having been married, there was again exhibited to me by Mr. Bell, a copy of the monument in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on which it appears he is thus described: "Henry, now living, born December 12, 1739." The Rev. William M'Dowell also produced to me the original register of burials of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which there is the following entry: "1758: The Hoñble Henry Hastings buried September 23." Therefore he must have died in the 19th year of his age. There was also exhibited to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, an original Act Book of Administrations, for 1758, in which there is the following entry: "On the 4th of October, 1758, administration of the goods, chattels, rights, and credits, of the Hoñble Henry Hastings, late of Battersea, in the county of Surrey, Esquire, Batchelor, deceased, was granted to the Right Hoñble Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, the natural and lawful mother, and next of kin, to the deceased, &c."

To prove that Ferdinando Hastings, stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the second son of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, was his second son by

his second marriage; that the said Ferdinando Hastings was the only brother of Theophilus ninth Earl of Huntingdon, by Frances, the second wife of Theophilus, seventh Earl, and that he died without ever having been married, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, a pedigree, which was read in evidence by the Lords, and printed, on the claim of Lord Kilmurry, in 1812. It is signed by Selina, the widow of Theophilus, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, the elder brother of the said Ferdinando Hastings; and it describes him as the only brother of Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon; that he was born 22d October, 1699, and died unmarried, (evidently meaning that he died without ever having been married,) 9th August, 1726. There was further exhibited to me by the Rev. William M'Dowell, the original registry of burials of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which there is this entry: "The Honble Ferdinando Hastings, only brother of Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, interred in the vault under the chancel, August 12, 1726."

To prove that Henry Hastings, stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the second son of Henry, the fifth Earl of Huntingdon, and to have been created Baron Loughborough, and to have died without ever having been married, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, the original Visitation of the county of Leicester, containing the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, in which he is thus mentioned: "Henricus Hastings, nat. 28 Sep. A°. 1610, in Barronium Loughborough erectus per Pat. 23 Oct. 19 Car. 1. cui fuit Strategus seu Colonellus Generalis in Comitatus Leic. Derb. Nott. Linc. et Stafford. Obijt Coelebs apud London, 10 Jan. 1666, Sepult. in Capella S. Georgij apud Windsor." There was also produced to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, by Mr. William Jenkins, Clerk, the original will of the said Henry Hastings, dated in 1666, and proved in 1667, in which he devises the residue of his estates to his nephew Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon; and if the said Theophilus should die under age, then to whoever should be next heir to the Earldom of Huntingdon: from this will it is to be inferred he died without issue; but taken together with the pedigree signed by his nephew Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, and the fact of the Barony of Loughborough never having been claimed since his decease in 1666, it appears to me to prove that he died without issue.

The Solicitor of the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, next proceeded to show the extinction of the issue male of Sir George Hastings, stated in said petition to have been the second son of Francis, Lord Hastings, and brother of Henry, fifth Earl of Huntingdon; and to prove which, the following evidence was laid before me. There was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the original pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682; by which it appears, the said Sir George Hastings was second son of Francis, Lord Hastings; and that he married Seymour, daughter of Sir Gilbert Prinn; that he had male issue, but that at the time of the compilation of the said pedigree they appear to have been extinct, as the Visitation states: "Georgius Hastings, de Grays Inn, in com. Midd'. Mil. ob'. sine Prole Masculo, 1 Jul. 1641, et sepultus in Eccles. S. Barthol. Majoris, London." This entry, describing him as dead, "sine Prole Masculo," must

neccsarily mean, that none of his male issue was living at the time of the compilation of the pedigree; for the same pedigree describes two sons to him, whom it also describes as dead at that time; and it appears by other evidence, that they died after their father's death, but before the date of the pedigree. There was also exhibited to me, the original register of burials of the parish of St. Bartholomew the Great, in which the entry of his burial appears in the following terms: "1641, Sir George Hastings, buried of the plague, July 4."

The petition of Hans Francis Hastings states, that Sir George Hastings left issue by Seymour his wife, four sons; namely, George, Charles, Ferdinando, and Francis. Two only of those sons are mentioned in the pedigree signed by Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682; namely, Charles and Ferdinando. There is indeed no legal evidence of the existence of this George, the eldest son: the fact is only presumed from a paper produced from the College of Arms, by Mr. Townsend, which is stated to be the copy of an old funeral achievement, said to have formerly been in the church of Saint Bartholomew the Great, in Smithfield, but which has been destroyed. In that copy, the births and deaths are stated in the following order: "Georgius, filius 1<sup>us</sup>, natus 22 Apr. 1621. obiit 3 die Jun. 1627."—"Carolus, filius secundus, natus 29 die 9<sup>bris</sup>, 1623, Viven 1635."—"Ferdinando, filius 3<sup>us</sup>, 19 Jan. 1626, ob. die conceptionis B. Virginis, an. 1654."—"Franciscus, filius 4<sup>us</sup>, natus 22 10<sup>bris</sup>, 1626, obiit n. 1631, apud Weybridge. If therefore this copy is to be deemed evidence of the existence of this George, it must be taken equally to be evidence of his death at that period stated. The pedigree signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, does not mention George the eldest, and probably because he died in his infancy, being only six years old: but states, that his father, Sir George, died "sine Prole Masculo:" meaning thereby, as I have before observed, that at the time of the compilation of that pedigree in 1682, there was none of his male issue then living.

To prove that Charles Hastings, and Ferdinando Hastings, the sons of Sir George Hastings, (who was the second son of Francis, Lord Hastings, eldest son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon,) as stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings, and that they both died without ever having been married, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682; by which the said Charles Hastings, and Ferdinando Hastings, appear to have been the sons of the said Sir George Hastings, and to have died without issue, as they are thus mentioned in it: "Carolus et Ferdinando obierunt in Cœlibatu." There was also produced to me, from the Prerogative Office, Doctors' Commons, a noncupative will of this Charles Hastings, proved 10th July, 1656; by which he devised all his estate to his sister, Martha Owens, wife of Owen Owens, (and which Martha is stated in the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, to have married Owen Owens,) from which it may be also inferred he had no children.

To prove that Ferdinando Hastings, the son of Sir George Hastings, died without leaving issue, there was exhibited to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, an original Administration Act Book, for the year 1654-5, by which it appears he died a

bachelor, and that administration was granted in 1654-5, to Dame Seymour Hastings, the true and lawful mother of Ferdinando Hastings, late of the parish of St. Bartholomew the Great, London, deceased, a bachelor." There was also exhibited to me, the original register of burials from the parish of St. Bartholomew the Great, in which the entry of his burial appears thus: "1654, Mr. Ferdinando Hastings, buried 12th December." And this registry agrees with the copy of the funeral achievement produced to me by Mr. Townsend, to show the birth and death of George Hastings, the eldest brother of this Ferdinando Hastings.

To prove that Francis, who is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the fourth son of Sir George Hastings, was his fourth son, and that he died in his infancy, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the copy of the funeral achievement formerly in the church of St. Bartholomew the Great, and which thus mentions him "Franciscus, filius 4<sup>us</sup>, natus 22 Decem. 1628, obiit n. 1631, apud Weybridge." There was also exhibited to me, the original registry of burials from Weybridge, in which there is an entry of the burial of this Francis in the following terms: "Francis, the son of Sir George Hastings, Knight, buried November 7, 1631." There was also produced to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of Dame Seymour Hastings, relict of Sir George Hastings, and mother of George, Charles, Ferdinando, and Francis Hastings. It is dated 25th October, 1661, and proved 4th July, 1664: she describes herself as Dame Seymour Hastings, widow and relict of Sir George Hastings, of Great St. Bartholomew, aforesaid, Knight: she desires to be buried in the parish of Great St. Bartholomew, as near her husband as may be: she mentions her daughter, Martha Owens, and another daughter named Nanfran, who is also noticed in the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682. She devises the residue of her property to trustees, for her daughter Martha Owens; gives rings to several of her relations, but does not mention any sons, or grandchildren by any son; which, taken with the other evidence, proves that all her sons had died, without having had issue, previous to 1661.

To prove that Edward Hastings, who is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the third son of Francis Lord Hastings, (and brother of Henry, fifth Earl of Huntingdon,) was his third son, and that he died without issue, Mr. Townsend exhibited to me the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, by which it appears that this Edward Hastings died in the expedition under Sir Walter Raleigh, in 1617; from which period, neither he, nor any issue of his issue, (if he had any,) ever were known to any of his family, or mentioned in any deed, will, or other instrument; and it being now somewhat above two centuries ago, the strongest presumption is afforded, that he died without issue.

To prove that Francis, who is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the fourth son of Francis Lord Hastings, was his fourth son, and that he died an infant, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682; by which it appears, he was fourth son of Francis, Lord Hastings; that he died an infant, and was buried at Ashby. There was also produced to me, by the Reverend William M'Dowell, Vicar of Ashby, the original register of



burials of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which the entry of the burial of the said Francis appears thus: "1593-4, Francis Hastings, infans, buried November 29."—As this original registry corresponds with the original pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, it affords sufficient evidence of the death of this Francis, as stated in the said petition.

To prove that Edward Hastings, who is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the third son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon, was his third son, and died without issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, by which it appears the said Edward Hastings was a Knight, and died at Vienna, in Austria. Of this Sir Edward Hastings, there is nothing further known; the time of his death has not been ascertained, but, as the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, mentions the issue of Sir Edward Hastings, the fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, who must have been born many years previous to the existence of this Sir Edward Hastings, and carries down his issue to the third generation, it is fair to presume, if this Sir Edward Hastings, who is stated to have been the third son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon, had issue, they would have been noticed by the Earl of Huntingdon, when he signed his pedigree in 1682; especially, as he states, in the said pedigree, the issue of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, the second son of George, the fourth Earl of Huntingdon, and brother of this Sir Edward Hastings. It was also stated to me, that it has been always understood he died without issue, and that such has been the reputation of his family for upwards of two hundred years. I think, therefore, it is to be inferred, he died without children.

To prove that William Hastings, who is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the third son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, was his third son, and died without ever having been married, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682; by which it appears, this William Hastings was the third son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, and that he died without ever having been married: he is thus mentioned in the same pedigree: "Willms. objit Cœlebs." Of this William there is nothing further known: he is not mentioned in the will of his father Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, which is dated in 1560, though all his other sons are therein named, and it has been stated to me, that it has always been understood this William Hastings died young, without ever having been married; which being the reputation of the family for upwards of two hundred and fifty years, I think it is, therefore, fairly to be presumed, that he died in the life-time of his father, without issue.

The Solicitor of the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, next proceeded to show the extinction of the issue male of Henry Hastings, generally called Sir Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, who are set forth in the Genealogical Table No. 2. In order to arrive at a more clear comprehension of the pedigree under which the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, claims, I have divided the Genealogical Table into three parts, viz.: Table No. 1, containing the direct line of the Earls: Table No. 2, the issue and descendants of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, from whom George Hastings, of Killaloo, in the county

TABLE I.

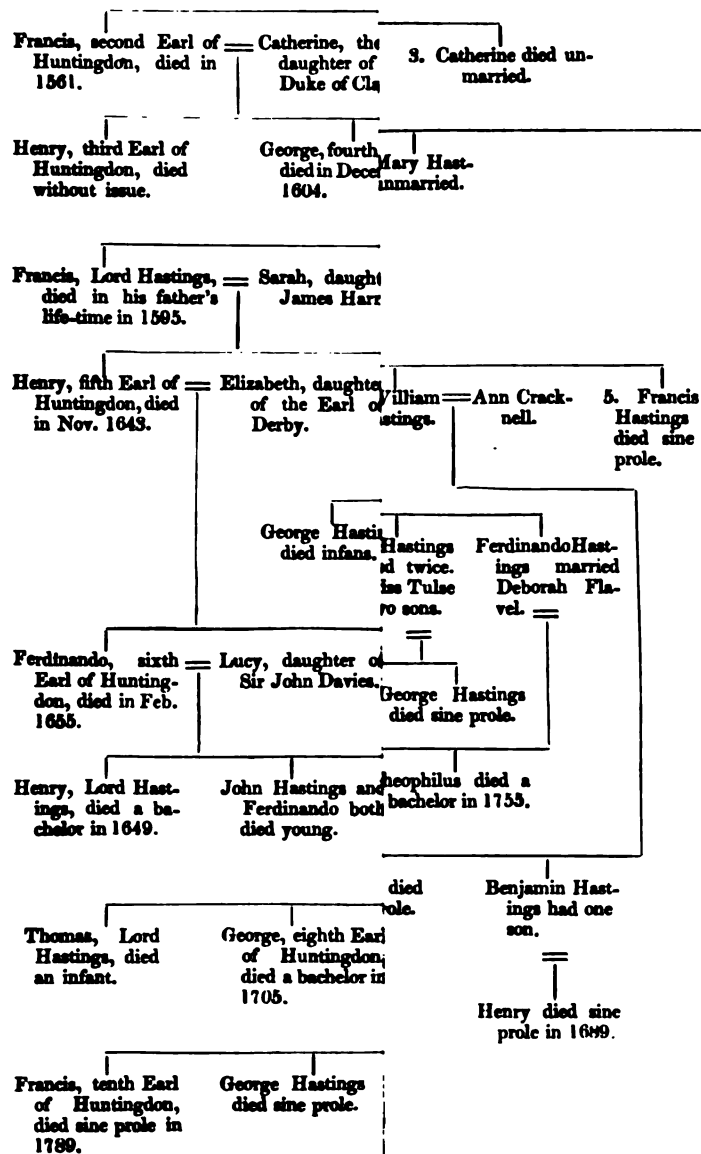
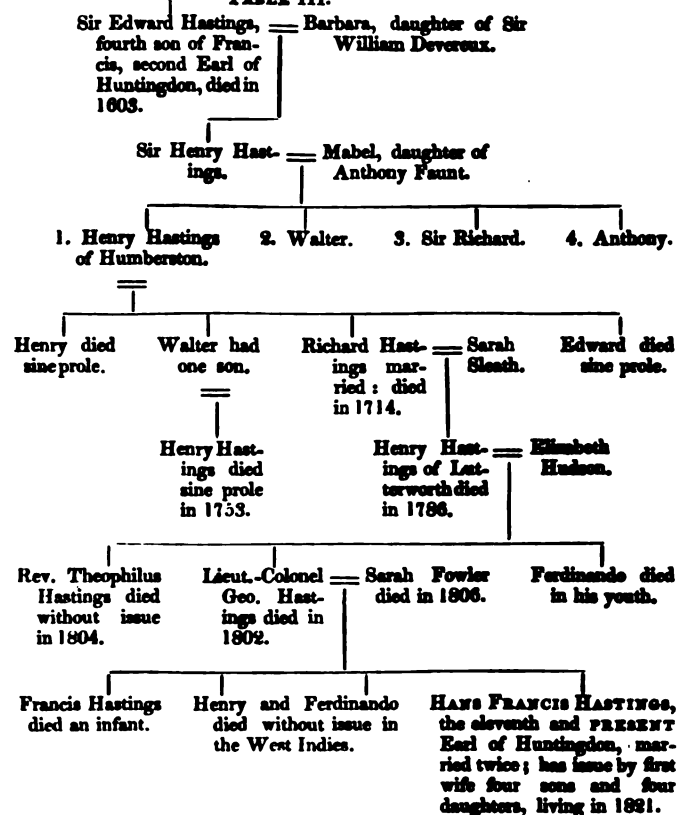


TABLE III.





of Clare, claims to derive his descent in the petition which he has since withdrawn : and Table No. 3, the issue of Sir Edward Hastings, the fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, from whom the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, claims to be descended.

In order to prove that the Honourable Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, (commonly called Sir Henry Hastings, and stated in the respective petitions of Hans Francis Hastings and George Hastings, to have been the second son of George, fourth Earl of Huntingdon,) married, and had issue five sons, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682; by which the said Henry Hastings is described as Henry Hastings of Woodlands, and Piddletown, in the county of Dorset; and it is stated therein, that he married Dorothy, daughter and co-heir of Sir Francis Willoughby, and left issue five sons, namely, George, Ralph, Henry, William, and Francis. There was also exhibited to me, by Mr. Bell, the copy of a monument in Horton church, Dorsetshire, taken by himself, and compared with the original by him, which states, that the Honourable Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, second son of George Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, died on the 5th October, 1650, aged ninety-nine years. This monument also sets forth the death of Dorothy, his wife, which appears to have taken place on the 5th December, 1638, in the eighty-fourth year of her age; and it farther states the death of Sir George Hastings, their eldest son, thus: "And Sir George Hastings, Knight, their son and heir, who died 25th October, 1651, ætatis 63." There was also produced to me, by Mr. Bell, an extract, made by himself, from the parish registry of Horton, in Dorsetshire, and certified by the Clerk of the said parish to be correct; by which the burial of the said Dorothy, wife of the said Henry Hastings, appears thus: "1638, Dame Dorothy Hastings sepulta."—It is fit I should observe, that the original register could not be procured, as the Clergyman did not attend with it; and it did not appear to me to be a very material document, inasmuch as it merely states the death of the wife of Henry, of Woodlands.

To prove that Sir George Hastings, Knight, who is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the eldest son and heir of the Honourable Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and that he was his son, and that he married and left issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, which thus mentions the said George Hastings: "Georgius Hastings, de Woodlands, Miles, obiit sine Prole Masculo superstite."—This evidently means, that at the time of the compilation of the pedigree in 1682, none of the male issue of Sir George Hastings were then living, and not that he never had issue; for though he is stated to have died "sine prole masculino superstite," yet there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, an unsigned pedigree and other documents, which showed he had male issue, some of whom survived him, though they were all extinct before the year 1682. The unsigned pedigree above alluded to is stated to have been compiled at different periods, between 1682 and 1689, by Thomas May, Chester, and Gregory King, Rouge-dragon, and it is entered in the original Visitation Book, evidently in the same hand-writing, and in the next page to that which contains the pedigree of the Earls of Huntingdon, certified by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682. The state-

ments in this pedigree are confirmed in every respect, by the pedigree signed by Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, as far as any of the entries relate to the same persons; and is, in all other respects, confirmed by such wills and other documents as have been produced, and which mention, or relate to, any of the persons mentioned in this pedigree. And by this pedigree, Sir George Hastings appears to have been the eldest son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and to have married Alice, the daughter of Sir Thomas Freke, and to have had issue by her three sons, namely, George, Edward, and John. The copy of the monument in Horton church, in Dorsetshire, taken by Mr. Bell, before stated, describes Sir George Hastings as son and heir of the Honourable Henry Hastings, of Woodlands; and that he died on the 25th October 1651. Mr. Bell also produced to me an extract, made by himself, from the registry of burials of Horton, in Dorset, by which it appears Sir George Hastings was buried on the 27th of October, 1551. The original register of this parish, I have before stated, could not be procured; but there was exhibited to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, an original Act Book of Administrations for the year 1660, by which it appears, administration of his goods, &c. was granted to Robert Williams, a creditor of his, on the 6th October, 1660; the specific time of his death does not appear material, but from the last stated document it is obvious he was dead in 1660.

To prove that George Hastings was the eldest son of Sir George Hastings, and that he died without issue, Mr. Townsend exhibited to me the unsigned pedigree of 1689, before mentioned, (entered in the original Visitation Book, containing the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682). This is the only document in which he is described to have ever existed, and in the same entry it is stated he died without issue.

To prove that Edward Hastings was the second son of Sir George Hastings, and that he died without issue, as stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the same Visitation Book, containing the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands; which states, that he died "sine Prole," and in which he is entered as the second son of Sir George Hastings.

There was also produced to me, by Mr. Bell, an extract, made by himself, from the registry of Horton, in Dorsetshire, by which it appears, that on "June 13, 1654, Edward Hastings was buried." The same observation is here to be made, as to the non-production of this original register; but any supposed deficiency of evidence arising from this circumstance is supplied by the original will of this Edward Hastings. The original will was produced from the Prerogative Office in the Commons; it is dated the 8th March, 1653, and also a codicil, dated 6th April, 1654. It appears they were both proved in 1655, in London, and that they were afterwards proved in Chancery, in a suit by one Henry Hastings.

As this will is material to the case of the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, in many respects, I think it necessary to give the following abstract of it. By this will, Edward Hastings, of Woodlands, in the county of Dorset, bequeaths all his manors, &c. to his brother John Hastings, (if he the testator should die without issue,) and to the heirs male

of his body, and in default of such issue of his brother John, then to his own right heirs; and in case his brother John Hastings should die without issue male, leaving issue female, then he devised one thousand pounds a-piece, to his sisters Frances, Dorothy, and Mabel, on his death, if they shall be then living. He also devises one thousand pounds a-piece to each of his sisters, Dorothy and Mabel. He also devises to John Roy, and Frances Roy, his sister Roy's children, one thousand pounds, to be equally divided between them; his brother John Roy to have the use of the same, until they should be of age. By this will it appears, that his sister Frances was married to John Roy. Upon this, it is to be observed, that if John Hastings died without issue, the estate of Woodlands would vest in Frances, Dorothy, and Mabel, the testator's sisters, unless there had been another brother or children of such. Frances is described by the will, as Frances Roy, and the mother of John Roy, the legatee before spoken of: Mabel died unmarried, as appears by the unsigned pedigree, and Dorothy without children, as appears also by the unsigned pedigree of 1688, as well as by her original will; and it appears by evidence, subsequently stated, that John Roy did come into possession of this estate: now this could not have been, if George the testator's elder brother had left issue, and if John Hastings, the devisee, had not died without issue. The estate of Woodlands having vested in John Roy, the son of the testator's sister Frances, therefore proves two things; first, that the testator's elder brother, George, died without issue; and that John Hastings, the youngest brother of the testator Edward, also died without issue. The fact of the testator Edward being in possession, and devising the estate of Woodlands to his younger brother John, is also reasonable evidence of the deaths of any other brothers without their having left children.

To prove that John Hastings, stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the third son of Sir George Hastings, (and to have died without issue,) was his third son, and did die without issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the original Visitation, containing the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, by which it appears, John Hastings was the third son of Sir George Hastings, brother of Edward Hastings, and in which he is stated to have died "sine Prole." It also appears by the same pedigree, that his sister Frances married John Roy, of London, Merchant, by whom she had one son, John, and a daughter, Frances, who married Samuel Rolle, Esq. There was also exhibited to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original Act Book of Administrations for the year 1658, by which it appears, that on the 26th June, 1658, administration was granted to "Elizabeth Hastings, widow, the relict of John Hastings, late of Woodlands, in the county of Dorset, deceased." There was also produced to me, the original administration Act Book for 1667, by which it appears that there was an administration *de bonis non*, granted in September, 1667, to Thomas Pechel, a principal creditor of John Hastings, late of Woodlands, in the county of Dorset, deceased, of his goods, and those of Elizabeth Hastings, alias Clarke, the relict of the said John, also deceased.

As a further proof that John Hastings, son of Sir George Hastings, of Woodlands, died without issue, there was exhibited to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of John Roy, the son of Francis Roy, and the nephew of the last

mentioned Edward Hastings; it is dated the 11th of March, 1667, and proved in 1668. He describes himself as John Roy of Westminster, junior, and devises all his estates of Woodlands, with all its manors and lordships, together with all its parks, farms, and demesne lands, and all its appurtenances whatsoever, lying and being in the county of Dorset, to his father, John Roy, for life, that he might "reimburse himself all such sums of money, whatsoever, which he hath at any time, since the year 1656, expended, paid, or in any ways laid out," for him the testator. He gives 500*l.* to his wife Elizabeth, and appoints his father, John Roy, guardian to any child he might have by his wife; gives 100*l.* to the poor of the parishes in which his estates are situated, and names his friend, Henry Eyre, who, by the unsigned pedigree, appears to have been married to his aunt Dorothy. This will shows that he was in possession of Woodlands, and that, therefore, some part of it had vested in him, as one of the right heirs of Edward Hastings, on the death of John Hastings his uncle.

It is true, that whilst his aunt Dorothy was alive, who did not die till 1670, he was not entitled to the whole of this estate; he was entitled to such share as came to him through his mother, who appears by his will to have been dead before, as he names his mother-in-law Dorothy. And if he was seized of any part which came to him as one of the right heirs of the testator, it equally proves, that John Hastings was dead without issue; for neither his mother nor his aunts could be entitled, till the brothers of the testator Edward were all dead without issue; and as Dorothy, his aunt, afterwards died without issue, her estate would vest in John Roy, or his heir, on her death, inasmuch as she made no devise of any real estate. Whether she had conveyed her share or portion of the estate of Woodlands to her nephew John Roy, in his life-time, does not appear.

There was also exhibited to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of John Roy, senior, (husband of Frances Hastings, *brother-in-law* of Edward and John Hastings, the third and fourth sons of Sir George Hastings, grandsons of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and father of the testator John Roy, junior) dated 2d October, 1680, and proved 7th July, 1684, in which he describes himself of Gussedge, in the county of Dorset, and devises all his rents and lands of inheritance, to his wife Dorothy, who is named in the will of John Roy the son, as his mother-in-law; and after her decease, to his special friend Thomas Gassin, upon trust, to the use of his daughter Rolle; appoints, that an 100*l.* which his son John Roy, deceased, had bequeathed to the poor, and which his son-in-law, Samuel Rolle, Esq. had agreed to pay, after the deaths of Henry Eyre and Dorothy his wife, be divided between the poor of the parish of Gussedge, Woodlands, and Piddletown, all in the county of Dorset. Those wills of John Roy, senior, and John Roy, junior, correspond with the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, of 1689, which states, that Dorothy, second daughter of Sir George Hastings, married ——— Eyre, Esq.; and that Frances (the daughter of John Roy, senior, and Frances Hastings his wife) married Samuel Rolle, of ———, in Devon.

As a further proof of the death of all the sons of Sir George Hastings, without issue, there was produced to me, by Mr. Townsend, the original Visitation Book, containing the pedigree signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon; wherein Sir George Hast-

ings, the father of Henry, George, Edward, and John Hastings,\* is described in 1682 as dead, "*sine Prole Masculo superstite.*" It appears to me, therefore, from this body of evidence, it is satisfactorily proved, that the issue male of Sir George Hastings, the eldest son of Henry, of Woodlands, are all extinct, and were so, in the year 1682, when the pedigree was signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon.

To prove that Ralph Hastings, mentioned in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the second son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, was his second son, and that he married and had issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, the pedigree signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682; by which it appeared that this Ralph died in 1648, and Mr. Townsend stated to me, that the mark of an arrow, which was placed under his name, denoted that he left issue, though such issue are not enumerated in the pedigree.

There was also produced to me by Mr. Townsend, the unsigned pedigree of the descendants of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, in which the said Ralph Hastings is described as the second son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands; that he married Joan Scutt, by whom he had issue four sons; namely, Henry, George, Ralph, and Ferdinando, and that he died in 1648.

To prove that Henry Hastings, who is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the eldest son of Ralph Hastings, was his eldest son, and died without issue, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, the original Visitation Book, containing the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, of 1689, by which it appears he was the eldest son of Ralph, and died "*sine Prole.*"

To prove that George Hastings was the second son of Ralph Hastings, as stated in the aforesaid petition, and that he died without issue, Mr. Townsend again exhibited to me the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, by which it appears, this George was second son of Ralph Hastings, and is stated to have died "*sine Prole.*" There was also produced to me from the Diocesan Court of Winchester, in the county of Hampshire, his original will, dated 21st March, 1670, and proved on the 8th of April, 1672; in which he devises an annuity to his brother Ferdinando, (who appears, by the same pedigree, to have been his youngest brother,) charged on his real estate; and devises his estates to his brother Ralph Hastings, who was his next younger brother, for life, and to the heirs male of his body; and for want of heirs male, to Ferdinando, and the heirs male of his body; and for want of heirs male, to the heirs of the body of Ralph; and for want of such heirs to the heirs of the survivor Ralph, or Ferdinando, in fee; and devises the rest and residue of his property to his brother Ralph, and appoints him executor. He also appoints Henry Eyre, and his cousin Henry Hastings, overseers of his will. He does not name any brother Henry, or any child of his; it is, therefore, to be fairly inferred, that his elder brother Henry died without issue, more especially, as it appears by the will of this George Hastings, that he was in possession of the family estate, namely, "North Hinton," to which he could not have been entitled, unless his brother Henry had been dead without issue; and devised it to his next brother Ralph; and it also proves, that George himself died without issue, as stated in the pedigree compiled in 1689.

\* This is the person from whom George Hastings, of Killaloe, attempted to deduce his descent.



# INVESTIGATION OF THE CLAIM.

To prove that Ralph Hastings, stated in the said petition to have been the third-son of Ralph Hastings, the son of Henry of Woodlands, was his third son, and that he married and left issue two sons, namely, Ralph and George, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, by which it appeared, that this Ralph was married twice. First, to Sarah, daughter of Thomas Moore, by whom he had one daughter, and no other issue. Secondly, to Sarah, daughter of Roger Tulce, by whom he appears to have had two sons, George, and Ralph Hastings. There was also exhibited to me by William Woolridge, Esq. from the Registry of the Bishop's Court of Winchester, the original will of this Ralph, dated the 14th of June, 1695, in which he devises to his eldest son Ralph, and Betty his wife, the sum of 20s. He gives to his youngest son George, 20s: to his daughter Sarah, wife of John Saunders, 12*l*.: he then gives all his estate to his second wife, (after bequeathing small legacies to the children of his daughter,) in fee simple. As he takes no notice of any other child, sons or daughters, it appears to me, it must be necessarily inferred he had no others, and the more especially, as the bequest is so small, that it may be fairly presumed, he thought it necessary to notice in his will all such children as he had; this will also exactly accords with the description of his family in the pedigree of 1689.

There was also produced to me, by Mr. John Lockyer, the original register of burials from Christ Church, in Hampshire, in which parish North Hinton is situate; in this register there is an entry of the burial of this Ralph, thus: "20th June, 1695, Ralph Hastings, Esq. was buried."

To prove that Ralph Hastings, stated in the said petition to have been the eldest son of the last above Ralph Hastings, (who was the third son of Ralph Hastings, the son of Henry,) was his eldest son, that he married and died without issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands; by which it appears, he was eldest son of Ralph Hastings, and was born in 1672, and that his father was of North Hinton, in the county of Southampton. There was also produced to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, his original will, dated 6th July, 1698, proved by his widow 3d day of December, 1706, (who had then married Thomas Wilkins). By this will he devises his farm of North Hinton to his wife for her life, after the death of his mother; and does not mention, or otherwise notice, any child or children in his will. As this farm of North Hinton appears to me to be the same bequeathed to this Ralph by the will of his uncle George Hastings, in 1670, he could not have any power to devise, unless he had suffered a recovery; but it may be fairly inferred from his will that he died without children, as he does not mention any: but further to show that he died without issue, there was also exhibited to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, an original Act Book of Administrations, by which it appeared, that in the month of July, 1714, "Administration was granted on the death of Betty, the widow of Ralph Hastings to her second husband, Thomas Wilkins, of the goods of her first husband Ralph Hastings unadministered." It may therefore be deemed conclusive, that this Ralph Hastings died without issue. There was further produced to me by Mr. Lockyer, the original register of burials from Christ Church, Hampshire, by which it appears that this Ralph Hastings was buried 23d October, 1701.

To prove that George Hastings, stated in the said petition to have been the second son of Ralph Hastings, (who was the third son of Ralph Hastings, the second son of Henry, of Woodlands,) was his second son, and that he died without issue, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, by which it appeared he was second son of this Ralph Hastings, and was born in 1676. There was also exhibited to me by Mr. John Lockyer, the original register of burials, of Christ Church, from the county of Hampshire, in which there is an entry of his burial, thus: "1702, buried December 23, Mr. George Hastings." Mr. Townsend and Mr. Bell stated to me, that they had respectively searched the registry of baptisms,\* marriages, and burials, of Christ Church, from the year 1682, up to the year 1702, the time of the death of the said George Hastings, and could not find the register of the birth, or baptism of any person of the name of Hastings. It is to be observed, that at this period, all persons baptized, married, or buried in North Hinton, were registered in Christ Church, there being then no separate register for North Hinton. As this George appears from the pedigree of his ancestor, Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, to have been born at Hinton, in the vicinity of Christ Church, and to have been buried at the latter place, it is to be inferred, had he married, the births of his children, if any, would have been registered there; this, together with the fact of his having died in the twenty-sixth year of his age, and an administration *de bonis non* having been granted in July, 1714, to Thomas Wilkins, the husband of Betty, relict of Ralph Hastings, the brother of this George Hastings, appears to me to establish the fact of his having died without issue, particularly as no issue of his has ever been heard of by any of his family, it being now upwards of one hundred and fifteen years since his decease.

To prove that Ferdinando Hastings, stated in the aforesaid petition to have been the fourth son of Ralph Hastings, (the son of Henry of Woodlands,) was his fourth son, that he married and had issue, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, by which it appeared to me, that the said Ferdinando Hastings was the fourth son of the said Ralph Hastings; that he married Deborah, the daughter of Richard Flavel, and left issue by her two sons, namely, Ferdinando and Theophilus; and also three daughters, namely, Maria, Elizabeth, and Deborah; and that he was living at Kennington, in the county of Surrey, in the year 1682. Of this man's death there is no account; but such rights as he had would, of course, descend to his issue, and therefore it is only material to trace the births and deaths of those descended from him.

To prove that Ferdinando Hastings, who is stated in the said petition to have been the eldest son of the aforesaid Ferdinando Hastings, was his eldest son, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, by which it appears, he was the eldest son of Ferdinando and Deborah Hastings, and that he was born in the year 1672. To prove that he died without issue male, there was exhibited to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons his original will, dated 21st

\* The Register was brought by Mr. Lockyer, the Clerk of Christ Church, to London, for the purpose of being strictly examined.

day of December, 1723, with a codicil annexed, dated the 2d of March, 1727, proved 29th August, 1728, and sealed with the armorial ensign of Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon, he devises, first, to his loving daughter, Deborah, one shilling, and all the rest of his property to his wife Elizabeth Hastings; but by the codicil to his said will, (dated 2d of March, 1727,) he bequeaths a sum of two hundred and fifty pounds, then in the hands of a Mr. Benjamin Shepherd, to his daughter Deborah, after his wife's decease. As there is no mention made, either in the will or codicil, of any other children, it is therefore fairly to be inferred he had no others. There was also produced to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of Elizabeth Hastings, the relict of the said Ferdinando Hastings, dated the 10th of September, 1736, proved in December, 1748, by which she devises to her daughter Deborah, among other property, a bond from the Right Honourable Lady Elizabeth Hastings; she also mentions relatives of the name of Shepherd, and it is to be observed that her husband, Ferdinando Hastings, mentions a Benjamin Shepherd in the codicil to his will. It also appears by the will of this Elizabeth, that their daughter Deborah married a person of the name of Weatherhead. She does not mention any child except Deborah, which is an additional circumstance to prove that this Ferdinando and Elizabeth Hastings had no other issue.

To prove that Theophilus, who is stated in the said petition to have been the second son of Ferdinando Hastings, (who was fourth son of Ralph Hastings, the second son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands,) was his second son, the original unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, was produced by Mr. Townsend, by which it appears that this Theophilus Hastings was the second son of Ferdinando Hastings, and that he was born in 1677. There was also exhibited to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, his original will, dated in 1754, proved 19th November, 1755. In this he devises a legacy to his niece Deborah Weatherhead; and a legacy of forty pounds, to be divided between his niece's four children at the age of twenty-one; and "the rest and residue of his estates, real and personal, to his executor, to be disposed of as he shall think fit;" from which it is to be inferred, that he died without children; and the devise to his niece Deborah Weatherhead identifies him to have been the brother of Ferdinando Hastings.

To prove that Henry Hastings, stated in the petition to have been the third son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, was his third son, that he married, and died without leaving male issue, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, the original Visitation of the county of Leicester, containing the pedigree signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, by which it appears, he was the third son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and is thus noticed in the said pedigree: "Henricus Hastings, obiit sine Prole Masculo." There was also produced to me, by Mr. Townsend, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, by which it appears, he was living at Newington, near London, and was thirty-two years old in 1623; that he had married Susanna, the daughter of Robert Offey, and had one only child, a daughter. This daughter is described as the only daughter and heir, married to a person of the name of Ayliffe; the period of time meant to be referred to as describing the

married daughter must necessarily be a period subsequent to 1623, because as he is described as being only of the age of thirty-two, it is almost impossible he should, at that period, have a daughter capable of marriage.

There was also exhibited to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of this Henry Hastings, dated the 29th of September, 1668, and proved in October, 1668, following, sealed with the crest of Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon, in which he describes himself of Newington Butts, in the county of Surrey, and devises an annuity to Thomas Wadsworth, his son-in-law; he devises certain property to his daughter Ann Alway, who had married John Alway, and then to his grandchildren, and gives as a reason for giving her no more, "that he had given her and her husband a fortune in the life-time of her own mother, and that before his marriage with Catherine, his then present wife, he had given John Alway, his son-in-law, 2000*l*." It is evident, therefore, that this Henry Hastings had two wives; that Ann Alway was the daughter of the first, and Thomas Wadsworth's wife daughter of the second, who it is probable died prior to the date of this will, as the devise is to Thomas Wadsworth himself, and not to the daughter. From this will it must be inferred, that the testator had no sons and no grandchildren, except by his daughter Ann Alway; and though the daughter in the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, who is described, "*filia unica et hæres*," by the name of Auliffe, instead of Alway, yet I think it is apparent the name was mistaken, as it is clear by the will the daughter's name was Alway, and there is no doubt of the will being the will of this Henry Hastings. There was also produced to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of Catherine Hastings, who describes herself of Melton Mowbray, widow, late wife of Henry Hastings, of Newington Butts, dated in 1688, proved in 1691; she devises to Mr. Thomas Alway, her late husband's grandchild, a legacy, and also to her nephews and nieces of her own family; she makes no mention of any children of her husband either by his first wife or by herself, and it therefore proves, she had no children then living by her husband Henry Hastings, and confirms the inference, that he had none by his first wife, except his daughter married to Alway, to whose son Thomas she bequeaths the legacy as her husband's grandchild.

To prove that William Hastings, who is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the fourth son of Henry Hastings, was his fourth son, that he married and had issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, by which it appears, this William Hastings was fourth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and he is thus noticed: "*Wilhelmus Hastings, Clericus*," with the mark of an arrow, which Mr. Townsend stated to me denotes that he had issue. There was also produced to me, by Mr. Townsend, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, by which it appears that this William was fourth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and twenty-four years of age in 1622: in this unsigned pedigree he is also described as "*Willielmus Hastings de . . . in com . . . Clericus*:" he is described to have married Ann, daughter of Gabriel Cracknell, of Oxford, and to have had issue by her five sons, namely, Henry, William, Francis, Edward, and Benjamin. There was also exhibited to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Com-

mons, the original will of his widow, Ann Hastings, dated in 1671, and proved in 1672; and sealed with the crest of Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon; she describes herself a widow, and gives to her son Henry Hastings, and to Mary and Ann, his daughters, ten shillings each; to her own daughters, and their daughters, legacies; "to Gabriel the son of her late son William, deceased," a legacy and five pounds in money; then gives legacies to one Hooper, who had married one of her daughters; gives to "Francis, the son of her late son Francis, deceased," a spoon; and to Ann, his sister, a specific legacy; also gives to her son Benjamin a ring; and to his son Henry, a bowl; the rest and residue to "Benjamin, and to Dorothy, and to Catherine, part and part alike;" and appoints Benjamin sole executor. On comparing this will with the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, which is entered in the original Visitation Book, containing the pedigree of the Earls of Huntingdon, signed by Theophilus, the seventh Earl, in 1682, they agree in all respects, save that this will does not mention Edward, her fourth son, who is stated in the pedigree to have died "sine Prole;" and it appears by the administration granted of his effects, produced to me, and subsequently mentioned, that he died before his mother, which is a reason for not mentioning him in the will.

To prove that Henry Hastings, who is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings to have been the eldest son of William Hastings, (the fourth son of Henry of Woodlands,) was his eldest son, and that he died without issue male, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, which states, that he was the eldest son of William Hastings, and that he had settled in Dublin in 1682, and then had only two daughters; these daughters are mentioned in the will of his mother, Ann Hastings, (which is dated in October, 1671, and proved in 1672,) thus: "I bequeath to my son Henry, and his daughters Mary and Ann, ten shillings each," from which it may be fairly inferred, that in 1672, he had only two daughters. There was also exhibited to me by Mr. Bell, the affidavit of William Jameson, of the city of Dublin, Solicitor, which appears to have been sworn before the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, of Ireland, on the 5th day of May, 1818, and which states that he, the said William Jameson, made strict search in Ireland, for deeds, wills, and administrations, of this Henry Hastings, and that no trace could be found of him. It is therefore fair to presume, that, in 1671, this Henry had no son, or such son would have been noticed by Ann Hastings, his mother, who mentions his daughters, and names her respective grandchildren by all her other sons; and by the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, it appears, this Henry had only two daughters in 1682; and if he had any son or sons, it is fairly to be inferred they would have been mentioned in it, as well as the son of his brother William, namely, Gabriel, who appears to have died in 1689, and Francis, the son of his brother Francis, who died in 1682; it appears to me, therefore, to be sufficiently proved, that this Henry Hastings died without issue male.

To prove that William, who is stated in the aforesaid petition to have been the second son of William Hastings, (the fourth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands,) was his second son, and that he married and left issue, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, was produced by Mr. Townsend, by which it appears, he was the second

son of William Hastings, the fourth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands; that he married Rebecca Pitfield, and left issue one son, Gabriel Hastings. There was also exhibited to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of his mother, Ann Hastings, before stated, dated in 1671, and proved in 1672, by which it appeared to me that he had died previous to 1671, and had left issue one son, Gabriel Hastings, inasmuch as she bequeaths a legacy in these terms: "To Gabriel, the son of my late son William, deceased."

To prove that Gabriel, who is stated in the said petition to have been the only son of William Hastings, was his only son, and that he died without issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, in which he is thus noticed: "Gabriel Hastings, Clericus, obiit Cœlebs, 1689;" and it also appears, by the said pedigree, that he was the son of William Hastings, and Rebecca, his wife. There was further produced to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of his grandmother, Ann Hastings, before stated, dated in October, 1671, and proved in 1672, in which he is mentioned as "the son of her late son William, deceased;" and there was also exhibited to me from the said Prerogative Office, the original will of this Gabriel Hastings, dated the 30th December, 1689, and proved in 1690; he describes himself Chaplain to the Colonel Hastings's regiment; devises his real lands and tenements in West Knighton, to his mother Rebecca Willard, and to the use of her will, and in default of her will, to Mr. Henry Hastings, Poor Knight of Windsor. After giving certain small legacies to another person, he gives the residue to his mother, and appoints Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, and the Honourable Colonel Hastings, his executors. From this will, it must be presumed he had neither wife nor children, and it corresponds with the pedigree of his ancestor, Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and his descendants, which appears to be finally completed in 1689, and in which he is described as "Clericus, obiit Cœlebs, 1689."

To prove that Francis Hastings, who is stated in said petition to have been the third son of William Hastings (who was fourth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands,) was his third son, that he married and left issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, so often referred to, by which it appears, he was third son of William Hastings, and Ann, his wife; that he had married Ann Arnold, and had issue one son, namely, "Francis." There was also produced to me from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of his mother, Ann Hastings, dated in October, 1671, and proved in 1672, wherein she describes him as her "late son Francis, deceased," and mentions his son Francis, her grandchild. There was also exhibited to me, from the aforesaid Prerogative Office, an original Act Book of Administrations, for the year 1668, by which it appeared to me, that in the said year, administration was granted to Ann Hastings, his widow, described as "the relict of Francis Hastings, of Islington, in the county of Dorset."

To prove that Francis Hastings, who is stated in said petition to have been the only son of this last mentioned Francis Hastings, (the third son of William Hastings,) was his only son, and that he died without issue, the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of

Woodlands, was again produced by Mr. Townsend, by which it appears, he was only son of Francis Hastings, and he is thus mentioned in the said pedigree: "Franciscus Hastings, obiit Cœlebs, 1682." The original will of his grandmother, Ann Hastings, was again produced to me, dated in October, 1671, and proved in 1672, in which he is mentioned as "the son of her late son Francis, deceased." There was further exhibited to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, an original Administration Act Book, for the year 1682, by which it appeared to me, that administration was granted to Robert Squibb, of the goods of Ann Hastings, as the guardian of Francis, the natural and lawful brother of Ann Hastings, late of Islington, but last of Bridport, in the county of Dorset. She, Ann Hastings, to whom this Robert Squibb administered, is mentioned in the will of her grandmother, Ann Hastings, dated in 1671, as the daughter of her son Francis, which confirms the identity, though she is not mentioned in the unsigned pedigree. And there was also produced to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of this Francis Hastings; son of Francis Hastings, the grandson of William, and great-grandson of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, dated the 29th of January, 1682, proved 20th February, 1683, in which he devises to his aunt Frances Squibb, to his cousin Robert Squibb, and to a servant of his master, each, a legacy, and appoints his cousin Robert Squibb, executor. He made this will under age, and it proves he had neither wife or child, and it agrees with the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, which states, that this Francis died "Cœlebs in 1682."

To prove that Edward Hastings, who is stated in said petition to have been the fourth son of William Hastings, (the fourth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands,) was his fourth son, and that he died without issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the unsigned pedigree before described, by which it appears, he was the fourth son of William Hastings, and he is thus noticed: "Edvardus Hastings, obiit sine Prole." There was also exhibited to me by John Tregonwell King, Esquire, Register of the Archdeaconry of Blandford, in the county of Dorset, an original bond, dated in September, 1671, (there being no Act Book of Administrations kept,) by which it appears, administration was granted to Henry Hastings and Benjamin Hastings, as administrators of "Edward Hastings, late of Puddletown;" his mother, Ann Hastings, does not name him in her will, dated in October, 1671, he being dead, nor any children of his, though she names the children of her other deceased sons: it is therefore fairly to be inferred (as he is stated in the pedigree of 1689 to have died "sine Prole;" and as his brothers Henry and Benjamin obtained administration of his effects,) that he did die without issue.

To prove that Benjamin Hastings, who is stated in said petition to have been the fifth son of William Hastings, (who was fourth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands,) married and left issue one son, the original Visitation of 1682, containing the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, was again exhibited by Mr. Townsend, by which it appeared, that this Benjamin Hastings was the fifth son of William Hastings, the son of Henry, of Woodlands, and that he married Ann Browne, by whom he had one son, Henry. The original will of his mother, Ann Hastings, dated in October, 1671, and proved in 1672, was again referred to, in which she gives a specific legacy to her son

Benjamin; and to his son Henry a bowl; and appoints her son Benjamin her sole executor; he is described in the pedigree of his ancestor, Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, as "of Bridport, in the county of Dorset." It also appeared to me, that careful search had been made in the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, and in the respective courts of the diocese of Bristol; at Blandford, and Winborne, in Dorsetshire; at the Bishops' Court of Sarum, from the year 1660 to the year 1740; at that of the Dean of Salisbury; the Subdean; the Archdeaconry of Sarum; the Archdeaconry of Wilts; the Dean and Chapter of Wilts; at the Treasurer's office of the same; and at the Precentor's of the same; at the court of the Dean and Canons of Windsor; at the Archdeaconal Jurisdictions; and at the Prebendal Jurisdictions of Wiltshire, for wills of the said Benjamin Hastings, and his son Henry Hastings, without effect; and search was also made in the said respective courts for administrations granted to the said Benjamin, or to the effects of his son Henry, but no wills or administrations could be found. It also appeared to me that search had been made in the Bishop and Archdeacon's Courts of Oxford, and in the Archdeaconries of Abingdon and Reading, in Berkshire, from the year 1670 to 1700, but no will or administration could be found of the said Benjamin, or Henry Hastings. It also appeared to me that a further search was made in the Bishop's Court of Winchester, and in the peculiar courts of the same place, for the wills of the said Benjamin and Henry Hastings, from the year 1603 to the year 1760, but without effect. It is therefore to be inferred, that if the said Benjamin Hastings made a will it never was proved, as appears from the foregoing searches, which were made in every county where there was even the slightest likelihood of finding the same; and it was stated to me by Mr. Bell, that the Bishop's Court in Oxford had been searched, because Ann Hastings, the mother of the said Benjamin Hastings, is stated to have been the daughter of Gabriel Cracknell, of that city, thereby affording a possibility that the said Benjamin Hastings had settled there. There was exhibited to me, by Mr. John Curme, the Parish Clerk, of Bridport, in the county of Dorset, (of which place Benjamin Hastings is described to be,) the original register of burials of that parish, in which there is the following entry: "1680: October, Benjamin Hastings was buried, 22d day."

To prove that Henry Hastings, who is stated in the said petition to have been the only son of Benjamin Hastings, was his only son, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the original Visitation, containing the unsigned pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, by which he is described as the son of Benjamin Hastings, and he is thus noticed in the said pedigree: "Henricus Hastings obiit Cœlebs, 1689." There was also produced to me the original will of his grandmother, Ann Hastings, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, dated in October, 1671, and proved in September, 1672, in which she makes the following bequest: "Item: I give to my sonne Benjamin my sealed ring; and to his sonne Henry, my little silver bowle and my wedding ring;" and he is the only child of her son Benjamin noticed or named; and if Benjamin had had any other children, it may be fairly inferred she would have named them, as she mentions all such of her grandchildren, both by her sons and daughters, of whose existence there is any evidence. It appears that strict search was made for a will of this Henry Hastings, in the



respective courts herein set forth, namely, in the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons; in the court of the Bishop of London; in Bristol; in Blandford, and Winborne, in Dorset; in Winchester, in Hampshire; in Salisbury; in Oxford; in Abingdon, in Berkshire, without effect, and no will could be found, nor any administration to any effects of which he may have died possessed. Mr. John Curme, the Parish Clerk of Bridport, in the county of Dorset, produced to me the original register book of burials of that parish, before stated, in order to examine whether there was any entry of the burial of this Henry Hastings, in this book: there is an entry of the burial of Henry Hastings, the son of Benjamin Hastings, buried 23d day of June, 1668; this, however, could not be the Henry in question, for he is stated in the pedigree as dying in 1689, and his grandmother recognizes him as living in the year 1671, when she bequeathed the specific legacy to him; but though there be no register of this Henry's burial, yet as no trace is to be found of any marriage by, or any descendant from him, I think it is fairly to be presumed, that the Visitation produced by Mr. Townsend is correct, namely, that this Henry died a bachelor in 1689.

To prove that Francis Hastings, who is stated to have been the fifth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, was his fifth son, and that he died without issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the original Visitation of the county of Leicester, containing the pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, in which this Francis is thus mentioned: "*Franciscus Hastings obiit sine Prole;*" and by this pedigree it also appears, he was the fifth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands.

There was also produced to me, by Mr. Townsend, the unsigned pedigree of 1689, so often referred to, by which it also appears, that the said Francis was fifth son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and in it he is thus noticed: "*Franciscus Hastings, æt. 23, ann. 1623, ob. sine Prole.*" Of the existence or death of this Francis Hastings, there is no other evidence, as no trace can be found of him in any deed, will, or other instrument, executed by any member of his family; nor has any issue of his ever been heard of: this, together with the fact of its being now upward of one hundred and fifty years since his decease, appears to me conclusive, that the pedigree, signed by the Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, is correct, when it states that this Francis Hastings died without issue.

The evidence thus produced on the part of the Petitioner, if correct and unimpeached, proves, that all the male descendants of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, the second son of George, the fourth Earl of Huntingdon, are dead without issue. The consequence of this would be, that the male issue of Sir Edward Hastings, the third son of George, fourth Earl, would be entitled, if any such existed; but it has already been proved, that this Sir Edward Hastings died unmarried, and without issue. The next branch, whose male descendants would be entitled were any such in existence, would be William Hastings, the third son of Francis, the second Earl, and brother of Henry, the third, and George, the fourth Earls of Huntingdon, but it has already appeared that this William died without issue. Hans Francis Hastings, the petitioner, claims to be the eldest lineal male descendant of Sir Edward Hastings, the fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, and brother of Henry, the third, and George, the fourth, Earls of Huntingdon; and in order to

prove that this Sir Edward Hastings was the fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, and the ancestor of the said Petitioner, the following evidence was laid before me.

There was exhibited to me, from the College of Arms, the original Visitation of the county of Leicester, containing the pedigree of the Earls of Huntingdon, compiled in 1682, and signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, the same year, by which it appears, that Francis, the second Earl of Huntingdon, had six sons, namely, Henry, his eldest son, who succeeded as third Earl of Huntingdon, and died without issue; George, his second son, who succeeded his brother Henry as fourth Earl of Huntingdon, and whose descendants are contended by the Petitioner to be extinct by the evidence already adduced; William, his third son, who is stated in the above mentioned pedigree as "Willelmus obiit Colebs;" and Sir Edward, his fourth son, from whom the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, states he has lineally descended. This pedigree, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, shows that Sir Edward Hastings was the fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, (who was eldest son and heir of George, first Earl of Huntingdon;) that he was of the Abbey of Leicester, and married Barbara Devereux, relict of Edward Cave; and that he had issue by her two sons, namely, Sir Henry Hastings, his eldest son, who married; and Walter, his second son, who is stated in the said pedigree to have died "sine Prole." There was also exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, an original Visitation of the county of Leicester, taken in 1681, by Thomas May, Chester, and Gregory King, Rouge Dragon, by virtue of a deputation and warrant from Sir Henry St. George, Clarenceux King of Arms; and signed by a Henry Hastings, who, by the pedigree contained in such Visitation, appears to have been the great-grandson of Sir Edward Hastings; and by this pedigree it also appeared, that this Sir Edward Hastings, Knight, was fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon; that he married Barbara, daughter of Sir William Devereux, Knight; a younger son of Walter, Viscount Hereford; and widow of Edward Cave, Esquire; and that he died in 1603, having had issue by his said wife two sons, namely, Henry Hastings and Walter Hastings. There was also produced to me, by the Reverend William M'Dowell, Vicar of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in the county of Leicester, the original registry of burials from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in which there appears the burial of Sir Edward Hastings in the following terms: "1603, Sir Edward Hastings, Knight, buried Jan. 24." There was also exhibited to me by the Reverend George Bireley Mitchell, Rector of the parish of St. Mary's, in Leicester, an original registry book, containing entries of all christenings, weddings, and burials, of that parish, and which appears to have been bought by John Webster and Robert Brustel, Churchwardens, in anno 1601. In this book, the baptisms, marriages, and burials of 1600, which had taken place before the book was bought, are entered separate, and so in 1601; but in 1602, they are intermixed according as the events of baptism, marriage, or burial, happened, and so entered from time to time. In this book, there is an entry of a licence to Lady Barbara Hastings, of the Newark, to eat flesh in Lent on account of her great age: it is dated in 1618. This

Lady Barbara, it is presumed, from the name of Barbara Hastings, was the relict of Sir Edward Hastings, and from the entry she appears to have been very old.

To prove that Sir Henry Hastings, Knight, who is stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings, to have been the eldest son of Sir Edward Hastings, was his eldest son, there was exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682, by which it appears, that Henry Hastings, Knight, was the eldest son of Sir Edward Hastings, who was fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, the son and heir of George, the first Earl of Huntingdon, and he is thus described in the said pedigree: "Henricus Hastings, Mil. acquisivit Humberston in com. Leic." and is stated to have married "Mabel, fil. Anthony Faunt, de Foston, in com. Leic. Arm." It also appears by the said pedigree, that this Henry left issue four sons, of whom a Henry Hastings appears to have been the eldest. There was further exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, from the College of Arms, the original Visitation of the county of Leicester, containing the pedigree of Sir Edward Hastings, compiled in 1681, and signed by Henry Hastings, the grandson of Sir Henry, and great-grandson of Sir Edward Hastings, in which the said Sir Henry Hastings is thus noticed: "Sir Henry Hastings, Knight, bought Humberston, in county Leicester, and died an." and is stated to have married "Mabel, daughter of Anthony Faunt, of Fauston, in the county of Leicester, Esquire;" and it also appears by this pedigree, that Sir Henry Hastings was the eldest son of Sir Edward Hastings, and Barbara, his wife, (and that Sir Edward was fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon;) that he Sir Henry left issue four sons, of whom a Henry Hastings was the eldest. Thus the pedigree of the Earls of Huntingdon, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1682; and this pedigree of Sir Edward Hastings, signed by Henry Hastings, his great-grandson, in 1681, exactly correspond in their account of their respective descents. There was also produced to me, by the Reverend George Mitchell, the original register of burials, of the parish of Saint Mary's, in Leicester, in which there is an entry of the burial of Mabel, the wife of Sir Henry Hastings, in these terms: "1618, Mabel, wife of Sir Henry Hastings, buried October 6."

To prove that Henry Hastings, stated in the said petition to have been the eldest son of Sir Henry Hastings, was his eldest son, that he married and left issue, the original Visitation, containing the pedigree of the Earls of Huntingdon, signed by Earl Theophilus in 1682, was again produced by Mr. Townsend, in which it appears, that this Henry Hastings was the eldest son of Sir Henry Hastings, and Mabel his wife. There was also exhibited to me by Mr. Townsend, the original Visitation, containing the pedigree of Sir Edward Hastings, signed by Henry Hastings in 1681, by which it appears, this Henry Hastings was the eldest son of Sir Henry Hastings and Mabel; that he married Jane Goodall, and is thus described in said pedigree: "Henry Hastings, of Humberston, in Co. Leic. Esq. ob. circ. anno 1656, buried at Humberston," and he is described to have married Jane Goodall, thus: "Jane, daughter of ——— Goodall, of Belgrave, in Co. Leic. Gent. buried at Humberston." He is also therein described to have had five sons; namely, Henry Hastings, his eldest son, who appears to have signed his pedigree in the original

Visitation Book in 1681; Walter, his second son; Richard, his third son; and Ferdinando and Edward, his fourth and fifth sons. There was also exhibited to me, by the Reverend John Dudley, Vicar of Humberston, the original registry of burials of this Vicarage, in which was entered the burial of this Henry Hastings, in the following terms: "1654, Henry Hastings buried February 23."

To prove that Henry Hastings, who is stated in the said petition to have been the eldest son of Henry Hastings, and Jane his wife, was their eldest son, and that he married and died without leaving issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree of Sir Edward Hastings, of 1681, signed by this Henry Hastings, in which he is thus described: "Henry Hastings, of Humberston, in Com. Leic. Esq. æt. circa 37, ann. 1681, the next male branch to the Earls of Huntingdon, after the descendants of Hen. Hastings, of Woodlands, second son to George, Earl of Huntingdon: he was born 22d March 1643." It is to be observed, that in the pedigree, he states himself to be about thirty-seven years of age, and to have been born 22d March, 1643: in the register of his baptism he appears to have been baptized in 1642, on the 22d of March. There appears to be no doubt of the identity of the person, and therefore it appears to me, he must have mistaken the year of his birth. His marriage with Pentecost, daughter of Edmund Smalley, of Leicester, is also stated. In the pedigree signed by himself, no issue of his is mentioned; though the issue of his brother Walter are noticed. From this circumstance, it must be presumed he had no issue at the time the pedigree was signed in 1681. There was also produced to me, by the Rev. John Dudley, the original register of baptisms of Humberston, in which the baptism of this Henry is thus entered: "1642, Henry Hastings, son of Mr. Henry Hastings, and Mrs. Jane his wife, baptized March 22d." There was also exhibited to me, by John Stockdale Hardy, Esq. Proctor, the original will of this Henry Hastings, which Mr. Hardy produced from the Diocesan Court of Leicester; it is dated 28th of January, 1692, and proved in 1697. He devises "all his worldly estate, of what kind soever, both real and personal, to his wife Pentecost, and makes her sole Executrix, from which it is to be presumed, that he had no issue at the time of his death, and as there is no trace of any issue, I think it is to be presumed that he never had any.

To prove that Walter Hastings, who is stated in the said petition to have been the second son of Henry Hastings, of Humberston, was his second son, that he married and left issue one son and two daughters, there was also exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the pedigree of Sir Edward Hastings, of 1681, and signed by Henry Hastings, the eldest brother of this Walter; by which it appears, he was second son of Henry Hastings and Jane his wife, and that he married Hannah, the daughter of Edmund Craddock, of Leicester, and he is thus described in said pedigree, "Walter Hastings, of Rempston, in co. Nott. æt. circ. 36. an. 1681, born 10th May, 1645. "It also appeared he had one son, Henry Hastings, and two daughters. There was also produced to me, by the Rev. John Dudley, the original register of baptisms from Humberston, in which there is an entry of his baptism thus: "Anno Dom. 1644, Mr. Walter Hastings, son of Mr. Henry Hastings, and Mrs. Jane his wife, baptized May 12th." The same mistake seems to have been made in the pedigree as to the year of Walter's birth, as I have before noticed, as to the

year of the birth of Henry. The exact time of his death has not been ascertained, nor where he was buried, but there is no trace of his having any other than Henry, who is described as his son in the pedigree of 1681.

To prove that Henry Hastings, who is stated in the said petition to have been the only son of Walter Hastings, was his only son, and died without ever having been married, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the original Visitation, containing the pedigree of Sir Edward Hastings, of 1681, signed by Henry Hastings his uncle, which states, that he was the son of Walter Hastings and Hannah his wife, and that he had two sisters, namely, Jane and Ann Hastings. It was stated to me, that this Henry Hastings was of Castle Donnington, and that he died a bachelor at Loughborough, in the county of Leicester, in the year 1753. To prove which, Mr. Bell produced to me the affidavit of John Barlow, of Loughborough, in the county of Leicester, Gentleman, who states himself to be in the seventy-eighth year of his age, and who swears, he knew Henry Hastings, Gentleman, who was buried at Loughborough, in 1753, and that he had not long resided at Loughborough before his death: knew him to be a relation of the late Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, and that he died, as it was reputed and understood, a bachelor; by which he meant that he had never been married. Mr. Bell also laid before me the affidavit of a Mr. Robert Blunt, who, at the time of his swearing the affidavit states, that he was within a few days of being seventy-six years of age, and saith he knew Henry Hastings, Gentleman, who died at Loughborough, in 1753; that the said Henry Hastings resided with one Mr. Henry Holbrook, who was an eminent Surgeon, in Loughborough, at that time, and to whom, as the deponent believes, the said Henry Hastings came for medical assistance; and that it was generally understood, the said Henry Hastings was a relation of the late Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, and was a bachelor; and the deponent further states, that the death of the said Henry Hastings, and his being a bachelor, are strongly impressed on his mind, by the reason of the deponent frequently enjoying the diversion of angling, in the company of the said Henry Hastings, on which occasions he had frequently heard the said Surgeon Holbrook call the said Henry Hastings and speak of him as "our old bachelor;" and that he has often heard the same expressions made use of by the housekeeper and other servants of the said Mr. Holbrook, and that he recollects the coffin of the said Henry Hastings.

There was also exhibited to me, by the Reverend Richard Hardy, Rector of Loughborough, the original registry of burials of Loughborough, in the county of Leicester, in which there is the following entry of the burial of the said Henry Hastings; "1753, Henry Hastings, Gent. buried Dec. 26." As it appears no issue of this Henry Hastings has ever been heard of, and the reputation of the county of Leicester being universal that he died a bachelor, it is to be inferred, he left no issue.

To prove that Richard Hastings, who is stated in the said petition to have been the third son of Henry Hastings, of Humberston, and Jane his wife, was his third son, that he was grandson of Sir Henry Hastings, and great grandson of Sir Edward Hastings, who was fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Townsend, the original Visitation, containing the pedigree of Sir Edward

Hastings, signed by Henry Hastings, the eldest brother of this Richard Hastings, in the year 1681, by which it appears, he was the third son of Henry Hastings, of Humberston, and Jane his wife; that he was living unmarried in 1681, then aged about thirty-five years. There was also produced to me, by the Rev. John Dudley, the original registry of baptisms from Humberston, in which there is this entry of his baptism: "1645, Richard Hastings, son of Mr. Henry Hastings, Esq. baptized 5th May." It is stated in the petition, that this Richard Hastings married Sarah Sleath, by whom he had issue one son, Henry Hastings; that Sarah his wife died in 1707, and he in 1714. To prove which, there was exhibited to me, by the Rev. Robert Johnson, the Rector, the original register of burials of Lutterworth, in the county of Leicester, in which there is an entry of the burial of the wife of this Richard Hastings, thus: "1707, Sarah, wife of Richard Hastings, was buried 7th Dec." There was also laid before me, by Mr. Bell, an extract from the original registry of burials at Welford, in the county of Northampton, made by himself, by which it appears, this Richard Hastings was buried on the 30th October, 1714, and this extract is certified to be correct by the Rev. John Ferraby, Vicar of Welford, and to have been compared with the original register by Mr. Bell, and William Jameson, in the presence of Mr. Ferraby; the original registry could not be produced to me, as the Vicar refused to attend me with it. This document, however, is not very material, as it could only prove the date of the death of Richard, who was born in 1645: the time of the death would equally be proved by lapse of time. His death however, and the time about which it took place, is shown by his original will, which was exhibited to me, by William Gates, Esq. Proctor of the Diocesan Court of Northampton. This original will of this Richard Hastings, is dated 20th October, and proved 17th December, 1714, in which he describes himself as Richard Hastings, of Welford, in the county of Northampton, Gentleman, and devises all and singular his messuages, cottages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever, with their appurtenances, lying and being in Welford, and in Lutterworth, and in Husbands Bosworth, in the county of Leicester, and elsewhere, in the kingdom of Great Britain, "unto my only son Henry Hastings, and his heirs and assigns for ever," and gives unto his said son Henry Hastings, all his goods, chattels, and personal estate whatsoever; appoints his loving friends Edward Harold, and Robert Judd, joint executors, during the minority of his said son Henry Hastings, and to be his guardians and trustees during such minority. This will and the probate, therefore, show that he died between the 20th October and 17th December, 1714, and that he left only one son.

That Henry Hastings, stated in the said petition to have been the only son of Richard Hastings, was his only son, appears by his father's will above stated; and there was also exhibited to me, the original register of baptisms from the parish of Lutterworth, in the county of Leicester, by Mr. Richard Mills, Clerk of the said parish, in which there is this entry of the baptism of the said Henry Hastings: "1701, Henry Hastings, the son of Richard Hastings, baptized May 22d."

To prove that this Henry Hastings married and left issue, the original register of the parish of Lutterworth last mentioned was produced, in which there is an entry of the marriage of the said Henry Hastings with Elizabeth Hudson, which agrees with the statement

in the said petition : the entry is thus : " 1727, Henry Hastings, and Elizabeth Hudson, both of Lutterworth, married Nov. 7." And in the same registry there was exhibited to me the entry of his burial, which is thus : " 1786, Henry Hastings, buried Oct. 10th." The petition also states, that the said Henry Hastings had by Elizabeth Hastings, his wife, three sons, namely, Theophilus Henry Hastings, George Hastings, and Ferdinando Hastings, who died of a decline in the 14th year of his age.

To prove that Theophilus Henry Hastings, who is stated in said petition to have been the eldest son of Henry Hastings and Elizabeth his wife, was his eldest son, and that he died without issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Richard Mills, the original register of baptisms from Lutterworth aforesaid, in which there appears this entry of his baptism : " 1728, Theophilus Henry, the son of Henry Hastings, baptized October the 7th." There was also laid before me an affidavit, sworn by George Needham, who states himself to be of Belton, in the county of Leicester, Gentleman, and to be about fifty-three years of age, and states, that he is the son of Thomas Needham, of Lutterworth, by Sarah his wife, who was one of the daughters of Henry Hastings, late of Lutterworth; that the said Henry Hastings was his grandfather, and that he was intimately acquainted with him for the last twenty-one years of his life. The deponent further saith, that the said Henry Hastings had issue by Elizabeth Hastings his wife, (whose maiden name was Hudson,) three sons and two daughters, and that he died in or about the year 1786; that of the three sons of the said Henry Hastings, Theophilus Henry Hastings was the eldest son, that he was a Clergyman, Rector of Great and Little Leke, in the county of Nottingham, that he married Elizabeth Warner, when he, the said Theophilus Henry Hastings was upwards of seventy years of age, and that the said Elizabeth Warner was, at the time of such marriage, fifty years old, as the deponent heard and believes; that the said Theophilus Henry Hastings had been married twice, but died without leaving issue by either of his said wives, as he the deponent has always heard and believes; that the said Theophilus Henry Hastings was the deponent's uncle, and that he was well acquainted with him : states that he also knew Colonel George Hastings, the second son of Henry Hastings, and Elizabeth his wife; that he heard and believes, that he married and had issue by Sarah his wife, four sons, of whom Francis, the eldest, died at the age of six years, as he the deponent has always understood from the parents of the said Francis, and other members of his family : says he was well acquainted with his cousins Henry Hastings, and Ferdinando Hastings, (the second and third sons of his uncle George,) who died without ever having been married, to the best of the deponent's knowledge and belief; and says that Hans Francis Hastings, the fourth and youngest son of his uncle George Hastings, is now, as he the deponent has heard and believes, claiming the Earldom of Huntingdon; and the said deponent further states, that his grandfather, Henry Hastings, was called Lord Hastings. This affidavit appears to have been sworn at Castle Donnington, the 22d April, 1818.

To prove that George Hastings, who is stated in said petition to have been the second son of Henry Hastings, of Lutterworth, and Elizabeth his wife, was his second son, and that he married and had issue, there was exhibited to me, by Mr. Richard Mills, the original

register of baptisms from the parish of Lutterworth, in the county of Leicester, in which there appears this entry of the baptism of the said George Hastings: "1735, George, the second son of Henry Hastings, baptized June 6." To prove his marriage with Sarah Hodges, as stated in the petition, there was also exhibited to me, the original registry of Saint James's, Westminster, by the Rev. Edward Sondly, Clerk in orders, in which there is this entry: "1769, No. 100, George Hastings, and Sarah Hodges, both of this parish, were married by banns, 2d April; signed, William Parker, Rector." There was also exhibited to me, by Mr. Bell, a copy of the tomb-stone of the said George Hastings, taken by Mr. Bell, in the church of Belton, in the county of Leicester, and compared by him with the original, which describes him as, "George Hastings, Esq. late a Lieutenant-Colonel of the third regiment of Foot-Guards, and to have died the 6th of February, 1802, in the sixty-eighth year of his age." It is also stated in the petition, that this George Hastings had four sons, namely, Francis, who is stated to have died in the sixth year of his age; Henry, his second son; Ferdinando his third son; and Hans Francis Hastings, the Petitioner, his fourth son.

To prove that Francis Hastings, who is stated in the said petition to have been the eldest son of Colonel George Hastings and Sarah his wife, was his eldest son, and died at the age of six years, there was exhibited to me, by the Rev. Edward Sondly, Clerk in orders, the original registry of baptisms, from the parish of Saint James's, Westminster, in which there is this entry of the baptism of the said Francis Hastings: "May, 1770. Baptiz. 22. Francis Hastings, son of George and Sarah; born April 19; signed, William Parker, Rector." There was also exhibited to me, by Mr. Bell, an affidavit, sworn by Selina Eliza Hastings, of Lewisham, in the county of Kent, spinster, who states in her affidavit, "That Francis Hastings, son of George and Sarah his wife, who was born in Saint James's, Westminster, in the year 1770, was her brother, and brother of the petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings; and that she has heard, and verily believes, that the said Francis Hastings died at the age of six years. There was also exhibited to me the affidavit of George Needham of Belton, in the county of Leicester, Gentleman; in which he swears, that Francis Hastings, the eldest son of George and Sarah, was his cousin, and that he always heard and understood, from the parents of the said Francis, and other members of his family, that he died at the age of six years.

To prove that Henry Hastings, who is stated in the said petition to have been the second son of Colonel George Hastings and Sarah his wife, was his second son, and that he died without leaving issue, there was exhibited to me the original register of baptisms, from the parish of Saint James's, Westminster, in which there is an entry of his baptism thus: "1774, Henry Hastings, S. of George and Sarah; born 22d July, baptized 4th August." There was also exhibited to me, by Mr. Bell, a certificate from the War Office, signed by the deputy Secretary of War, bearing the office seal, and dated 16th February, 1818, which states, that Captain Henry Hastings, of the Third West India Regiment, is dead, and was succeeded in his commission on the 26th November, 1796. There was also laid before me an affidavit, sworn by Samuel Pryer, Gray's-Inn, Solicitor, on the 6th of April, 1818; in which he states, he was personally



acquainted with Henry Hastings and Ferdinando Hastings, two of the sons of Colonel George Hastings, of the Third Regiment of Foot-Guards, who were, as he believes, officers in His Majesty's service, in the West Indies; and further states, that he has heard from their mother, who is now dead, and other branches of their family, who are also dead, and verily believes, that they both died in the West Indies, without ever having been married; and that he knows the petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, and verily believes he is the brother of the said Henry and Ferdinando Hastings, and son of Colonel George Hastings and Sarah his wife, both deceased.

To prove that Ferdinando Hastings, who is stated in said petition to have been the third son of Colonel George Hastings and Sarah his wife, was his son, and that he died without ever having been married, there was again exhibited to me, by Mr. Bell, the affidavit of George Needham, sworn at Castle Donnington, in the county of Leicester, the 22d April, 1818; in which he states, that this Ferdinando Hastings was his cousin, and that he has always heard, and believes, he died in the West Indies without ever having been married. There was also again laid before me the affidavit of Samuel Pryer, of Gray's-Inn, in the city of London, Solicitor, sworn the 6th of April, 1818; in which he also states, that this Ferdinando Hastings was the son of Colonel George Hastings and Sarah his wife, and that he died (as the deponent has heard from the mother of the said Ferdinando, who is now dead, and verily believes,) in the West Indies, without ever having been married. There was also produced to me, by Mr. Bell, a certificate from the War Office, dated the 16th February, 1818, signed by the deputy Secretary of War, bearing the seal of the War Office, which states, that Ferdinando Hastings was a captain in the Eleventh West India Regiment, that he died the 22d day of February, 1801, and was succeeded in his commission in the month of April following.

To prove that the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, is the fourth son of George and Sarah Hastings, as stated in his petition, there was exhibited to me, by the Rev. Robert Chapman, Curate, the original registry of baptisms, from the parish of Saint Mary-le-bone, in the county of Middlesex; in which there appears an entry of his baptism thus: "11th Sept. Hans Francis Hastings — of George and Sarah, b. 14. ult." To prove that he, the Petitioner, is the only surviving son of his father, George Hastings, there was again exhibited to me, by Mr. Bell, the affidavit of Selina Eliza Hastings, sister of the Petitioner, in which she states, that a Francis Hastings, the son of George and Sarah, was her brother, and the brother of Hans Francis Hastings, the claimant and petitioner, and that he died at the age of six years; and that Henry Hastings and Ferdinando Hastings, captains in the West India Regiments, were her brothers; that they died in the West Indies, and that they had never been married. There was also again laid before me the affidavit of Samuel Pryer, Esquire, who swears in said affidavit that he knows the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, and verily believes him to be the son of Colonel George Hastings and Sarah his wife, deceased. And there was further exhibited to me, by the said Samuel Pryer, (who stated to me that he has been solicitor to the mother of the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, and her family, upwards of forty years,) indentures of lease and release, dated respectively the 4th and 5th days of August, 1816, the

release being of five parts, and made between Thomas Fowler, Esq. and Lucy his wife, of the first part, Hans Francis Hastings, the Petitioner, (therein described to be the only surviving son and heir of Sarah Hastings, deceased, by George Hastings, Esq. her husband, also deceased,) of the second part, Samuel Church, Gentleman, of the third part, Samuel Pryer, Gentleman, of the fourth part, and John Dickinson, of the fifth part; whereby certain estates in the county of Radnor, therein described, were conveyed, by the said Thomas Fowler and Hans Francis Hastings, to the said Samuel Church, (in his actual possession, &c.) to hold the same unto and to the use of the said Samuel Church, to the intent that he might become a good tenant of the freehold, so that one or more common recovery or recoveries might be suffered thereof, in manner thereafter expressed, in which the said Samuel Pryer was the demandant, the said Samuel Church tenant, and the said Hans Francis Hastings vouchee; such recovery, in the first place, to confirm the life estate of the said Thomas Fowler, and the remainder to his first and other sons, and subject thereto, to the use of the said John Dickinson, his heirs and assigns, for ever. And there was also exhibited to me the recovery suffered accordingly at the summer great sessions of 1816, at Presteign, for the county of Radnor, South Wales. And there was further produced to me a similar recovery, suffered at the summer great sessions for 1817, of other parts of the said estate, and exemplifications of the said recoveries, wherein the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, was vouched to warranty, as the tenant in tail of the said estates, in consequence of his being the only surviving son of the said George and Sarah Hastings.

And there was also laid before me, by Samuel Pryer, Esq. a deed poll of appointment, dated the 19th June, 1807; whereby the said Sarah Hastings (the mother of the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings) appointed a sum of twelve hundred pounds, part of some reversionary stock, in favour of the said Hans Francis Hastings, her son: and it is therein recited, that Henry and Ferdinando, two of her children, had died, without ever having been married, and that in consequence she was desirous of making such appointment for the benefit of her son, Hans Francis Hastings. From the whole of this evidence, it appears that the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, is the only surviving son of his father, and the eldest lineal descendant of Sir Edward Hastings, the fourth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, who was eldest son and heir of George, first Earl of Huntingdon.

There was also exhibited to me, by Mr. Bell, a letter, stated to be in the hand-writing of the late Countess of Moira, mother of the present Marquis of Hastings, eldest sister of Francis, the tenth and late Earl of Huntingdon, dated the 18th of April, 1803, addressed to Archdeacon Hastings, on which is indorsed the affidavit of the Rev. Anthony Hastings, who swears himself to be the son of the said Archdeacon Hastings, and swears that the said letter, so produced to me, is the hand-writing of the late Countess of Moira. In this letter, the Countess states, in the most positive manner, that the Petitioner's uncle, Theophilus-Henry Hastings was next heir to the Earldom of Huntingdon, and that, in failure of issue male in the said Theophilus, the title of Earl of Huntingdon would devolve on his brother, George Hastings, the father of the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings. She enters into a very extensive detail of the pedigree of her family, and I found her statement

correspond with the evidence laid before me in support of the claim of the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings. As this letter is dated 18th April, 1803, in the life time of Theophilus Hastings, the uncle of the claimant, and as it states the reputation of the family on the subject, it may be material to state parts of it. The following passage is extracted from it:—"A gentleman who holds a living on my son's estate is, most undoubtedly, the next heir to the Earldom; he was educated for the church by Mr. Wheeler," &c. "His brother was educated with a younger brother of mine, and then went from serving in a marching regiment into the Guards; and he (though confined by ill health, and thus obliged to sell out of the army) has several sons in the army and navy. The claims of this branch were acknowledged by my father and all my family, and the proofs were delivered to my late brother, Francis, last Earl of Huntingdon; but they are not able to bring forward any claim, and I am in no ways able to assist them, though convinced of their just right. They are the descendants, it is said, of Edward Hastings and Barbara Devereux, but I never saw the statement of their claim; but my aunt, Lady Ann Hastings, told me that she had given the proofs to my deceased brother, and my father always assented to their having the claim of presumptive heirs."

In another part of this letter, she mentions the descendants of a Walter Hastings, the sixth son of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon, who, having expressed a wish to claim the Earldom, applied to her to support such claim by her evidence, to which she states she made the following reply:—"I informed them that I wished well to that branch of the family, more so than to that of the true claimants, but that my information would go to show that they could not have any manner of right till it was proved that all the descendants of Edward Hastings and Francis Hastings, fourth and fifth sons of Francis, Earl of Huntingdon were extinct. (The eldest son, William, supposed to die young.)"

And in this letter there is also the following remarkable passage:—"In the line of Edward Hastings, the claim to the title, without doubt, now rests; and I have not a doubt, from all that I have heard affirmed by my father and aunts, that the clergyman, Mr. Theophilus Hastings, is the heir to the title, and after him his brother, and that brother's children are the presumptive heirs." This letter does not appear to have been written by the desire, or upon the application, of the Petitioner, or of his uncle, Theophilus, or of any person under whom he claims, but in consequence of an application of a descendant of a younger branch of the family of Sir Edward Hastings, who supposed the right to the Earldom might be vested in him.

There was also exhibited to me, by Mr. Bell, an original presentation to the vicarage of Belton, in the county of Leicester, dated the 5th day of July, 1764, by which it appeared that Francis, late Earl of Huntingdon, presented Theophilus Henry Hastings, the Petitioner's uncle, to said vicarage.

There was further exhibited to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of Francis, the tenth and late Earl of Huntingdon, dated 9th August, 1779, proved October 8th, 1789, in which he gives one thousand pounds to Lieutenant Colonel George Hastings, of the Third Regiment of Guards, the father of the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings.

There was also produced to me several letters, in the hand-writing of Francis, the late Earl of Huntingdon, bearing on their respective seals the arms of Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon, and the post-marks, the writing of which I compared with the signature to the original will of the said Earl, and with other parts of the said will, and by which comparison the said letters clearly appear to me to be the hand-writing of the said Francis, the tenth and late Earl of Huntingdon. They are directed to the Petitioner's father, Colonel George Hastings, and in which letters the said Earl addresses him as "My dear George," "My dear Hastings," and concludes with "Ever, my dear George, your affectionate friend," and "yours affectionately," &c.

There was also exhibited to me, from the Prerogative Office of Doctors' Commons, the original will of Lady Ann Hastings, (one of the daughters of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, who signed the pedigree in 1802,) dated in July, 1685, in which she "bequeaths her steel seal," with the crest of her family engraved on it, to Theophilus Henry Hastings, the uncle of the Petitioner.

There was further laid before me the affidavit of William Toone, of Belton, in the county of Leicester, Esq. sworn the 2d May, 1818, in which the deponent states, he knew Theophilus Henry Hastings, the elder brother of Colonel George Hastings, and uncle of the Petitioner, who always stated he was heir to the title. That Henry, father of Theophilus Henry Hastings and George Hastings, was called Lord Hastings, from the reputation of his being entitled to the Earldom, if Francis, the late Earl of Huntingdon, should happen to die without issue. The said deponent also states, that Colonel George Hastings, the Petitioner's father, almost constantly resided at Donnington Park with the said Earl Francis, the last Earl, when he resided there, received presents from, and was most intimate with him.

There was also exhibited to me the respective affidavits of Joseph Vicars, of Loughborough, William Toone, of Belton, Christopher Hickey, of same, all in the county of Leicester, and the affidavit of Thomas Platts, of Little Leke, in the county of Nottingham, who respectively state, that the reputation of the county of Leicester was, that Theophilus Henry Hastings, the uncle of the Petitioner, would be entitled to the Earldom of Huntingdon in failure of issue of Francis, the late Earl of Huntingdon.

There was also produced to me an armorial shield, emblazoned with the armorial ensigns and quarterings of the Earls of Huntingdon, and two crests: first crest was that of Stanley, Earl of Derby, whose daughter married Henry, fifth Earl of Huntingdon; the second crest is that of Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon. On the shield, the arms of Stanley and Hastings are quartered; and those armorial ensigns are stated to have been given by the late Earl of Huntingdon to Colonel George Hastings, the father of the Petitioner; and Mr. Townsend also stated to me that the said armorial shield was very old, and that he had not a doubt of its being the same on which the arms of the families of Stanley and Hastings were marshalled, on the marriage of Henry, the fifth Earl of Huntingdon, with the daughter of Ferdinando Stanley, Earl of Derby.

There were also produced to me several letters, written by Selina, late Countess of Huntingdon, wife of Theophilus, ninth Earl, directed to Colonel George Hastings, the father of the Petitioner, in which he addresses him as "My dear George," and concludes

with—" Ever, my dear George, your most faithful friend;" and " As ever, my dear George, your truly faithful and affectionate friend." Those letters, the arms of Stanley and Hastings, the original will of Francis, late Earl of Huntingdon, and his letters, the original will of his aunt, Lady Ann Hastings, and the letter of his sister, the late Countess of Moira, showing the sense and opinion of her family concerning Theophilus Hastings, the uncle of the Petitioner, and his family, and the herein before recited affidavits of those several persons, stating the general reputation of the county of Leicester to have been, that the Petitioner's uncle, the Rev. Theophilus Henry Hastings would be entitled to the Earldom of Huntingdon in failure of issue of Francis, the tenth and late Earl of Huntingdon, were all used as so many further very material facts, to prove the truth of the pedigree of the petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings.

I have stated in the first part of my report, that a claim has been made by Mr. George Hastings, of Killaloo, to the title of the Earl of Huntingdon, and that such claim has been withdrawn; but I think it may be right to state in what manner that claim was stated, and the branch of the family of Hastings from which such claimant proposed to prove himself descended. He claimed to be descended from the Hon. Henry Hastings of Woodlands, whose pedigree is stated in the Genealogical Table, No. 2, and that he derived his descent from John Hastings, the fourth son of Sir George Hastings, who was the eldest son of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, according to the Genealogical Table, No. 4, which was annexed to the petition of Messrs. Evans and Bartram, and is hereunto annexed.

The first step in this pedigree is, that the Hon. Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, who married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Francis Willoughby, Knight, had a son, Sir George Hastings, Knight, who married Alice, daughter of Sir Thomas Freke, by whom he had four sons, namely, Henry, his first son; George, his second son; Edward, his third son; and John Hastings, his fourth son; that the three eldest sons died without issue, but that John Hastings, the youngest son, who is described in the Table to be of Carrigoulish, (which is in the county of Limerick, in the kingdom of Ireland,) married Isabella ——— by whom he had a son, Ralph Hastings, stated to be the ancestor of the Petitioner, George Hastings. I am not informed by what evidence this part of the pedigree of the Petitioner George Hastings was to have been supported; but as his petition states, that he is the lineal male descendant of John Hastings, the fourth son of Sir George Hastings, the eldest son and heir of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and that the said John Hastings married Isabella ———, by whom he had a son, Ralph, I think it necessary to observe, that the evidence laid before me on the part of the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, and which has not been impeached, shows that such fact could not exist.

The pedigree of the Earls of Huntingdon, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl, in 1682, states, that Sir George Hastings, the father of John Hastings, the Petitioner's alleged ancestor, was dead in 1682, without leaving any issue male of his body then living; and the pedigree of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, and his descendants, compiled in 1689, (and herein so often referred to,) states, that John Hastings, the alleged ancestor of the Petitioner, was dead, " sine Prole." The original will of Edward Hastings, the son of Sir George Hastings, grandson of the Hon. Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, brother of the

said John Hastings, and which is dated 8th March, 1653, with a codicil annexed, dated 6th day of April, 1654, both proved in London, 29th September, 1655, is also a very material document, and coupled with the circumstances of John Hastings, or any of his issue, never having been in possession of the estate thereby devised, affords strong proof that John Hastings, the alleged ancestor of the Petitioner, died without issue; for by this will, the testator, Edward, devises all his "manors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments," to his brother, John Hastings, and his issue male, and for want of such issue, he devises the same to his right heirs for ever. And it appears, by evidence already stated, that neither John Hastings, nor any descendant of his, ever possessed or claimed this estate, but that other persons, as the right heirs of Edward Hastings, the testator, took the estate. The administrations granted to *Elizabeth*, the relict of the said John Hastings, and to Thomas Pechel, a principal creditor of John and Elizabeth Hastings, who are, in such administration, described as "late of Woodlands, in the county of Dorset," (and which are herein before fully set forth,) also establish the fact, that the wife of John Hastings was named *Elizabeth*, and not *Isabella* as stated in the petition of George Hastings.

In tracing the pedigree stated in the petition of Hans Francis Hastings, I have examined all the original documents which have been produced, and which appear to be genuine and free from suspicion; and in the few instances in which I have received copies of registers of baptism or burial, I have not relied upon such as evidence, the facts therein stated having been proved by other sufficient testimony, and the non-production of the originals, in these instances, has been fully accounted for, by the positive refusal of the persons in whose custody they were to attend with them before me.

Upon the whole of this case I am humbly of opinion, that the Petitioner, Hans Francis Hastings, has sufficiently proved his right to the title of Earl of Huntingdon; and that it may be adviseable, if your Royal Highness shall be graciously pleased so to do, to order a Writ of Summons to pass the Great Seal, to summon the said Petitioner to sit in parliament, and there to enjoy the rank and privileges to the said title belonging.

29th October, 1818.

S. SHEPHERD.

The day this Report was presented was a proud and joyful one to me, and only exceeded by one other happier day in my life, the fourteenth of January following. The crisis was deeply interesting, and even awful; but the tone of the Report was decidedly favourable, and I had room for no feeling but confidence, when I considered the exalted and impartial hands in which it was now placed. It is true, we had some temptation to suspect an obstacle in that high quarter. Previous to the presentation of our petition, and frequently during the progress of the business, many persons had

endeavoured to inculcate a belief on Lord Huntingdon's mind, that the intimate friendship so long known to exist between the Prince and the Marquis of Hastings, would prepossess his Royal Highness, and operate powerfully, if not fatally, against his Lordship's success. Such officious persons had formed, or seemed to have formed, a most erroneous, and most unworthy, estimate of the august personage in question—an estimate, which both Lord Huntingdon, and I myself, always treated with absolute contempt. These insinuations never gave us a moment's uneasiness, convinced as we were, that in so truly royal a breast, no personal or private feeling, however dear, could be suffered to mingle itself with the sacred duties of a sovereign, in any other way, than to give greater *eclat* to an act of public justice. The result fully and nobly realized our confidence. From the commencement, whenever reference was necessary to the Prince in his high capacity, his Royal Highness facilitated the proceedings as far as in him lay, with a zeal and anxiety for the ends of truth and justice, which excluded all subordinate considerations. The nation, and posterity, ought to know and appreciate this conduct so worthy of the regal character, and of the illustrious individual himself. When the page of history shall record, that through his wise counsels, and steady and uncompromising policy, kingdoms have been preserved, and thrones restored, the present signal act of impartial justice occurring, under the peculiar circumstances, during, as I may say, his reign, may be fairly allowed, as his name descends down the stream of time, "to pursue the triumph and partake the gale;" and ought to endear him even more to every honest and loyal heart. An anecdote illustrative of the magnanimity which gratitude thus feebly attempts to pourtray, I will relate here. It would be injustice to suppress it; and, independently of any other authority, it bears internal evidence sufficient to assure me of its authenticity. Previous to the

sending in of the Report, and after Mr. Hastings' departure for Ireland, it was whispered about in a particular circle, that a personal application had been made by a Lady of high rank to the Prince Regent, requesting him to issue orders to the Law Officers of the Crown, to postpone the further hearing of the pending claim to the Huntingdon Peerage, until the return of a certain nobleman to this country; or at least till such time as that personage should be apprized of the proceedings which had already taken place, and should send his advice and instructions on the subject. To this request his Royal Highness replied with becoming complaisance and dignity, concluding with the following most princely sentiments.—

“ But, let me assure you, Madam, that the rights of one subject are as sacred in my eyes, and as dear to my heart, as those of another; and if it appears that the claimant in this case has a just right to the title in question, God forbid that any act of mine should prevent his accession to, and enjoyment of it, even for a moment. Were I to act otherwise, I should disgrace the station I fill, and abuse that high trust confided to me for the happiness of my people, and the maintenance of the laws. I stand here, Madam, to direct and impel the pure and impartial administration of public justice, not to obstruct the exercise of it.”

On such exalted sentiments, so nobly superior to every personal bias, and so purely public-spirited and just, all comment would be vain, and all attempt at panegyric superfluous. Let it suffice, that the Report was, without a moment's unnecessary delay, referred to the Lord Chancellor for his consideration and approval.

In consequence of his Lordship's indisposition, it was detained in that stage for some weeks. During this interval my suspense was agreeably diverted, and my time in a great measure occupied, by pleasurable pursuits and in the enjoyment of the society of my



friends. I was honoured with a cordial and pressing invitation from the Rev. Dr. Pigot Forster, Rector of Merryworth, in Kent, to accompany him to his charming residence in that county. To the admirers of "nature in her cultivated trim," the mere sight of this delicious spot might amount to inspiration, and if I possessed a talent for the descriptive equal in any degree to the impression made on my mind at the moment, I might hope to convey some idea of its pastoral beauties, and picturesque scenery. It is situated in a luxuriant valley, every where ornamented by the hand of taste and industry, within a short distance of the village of Merryworth, and separated by only a field or two from the parish church, which has for years been the admiration of the stranger, not only for the beauty of its steeple, and of the structure generally, but for the chaste simplicity and neatness, as well as comfort of its interior. The mansion itself is elegantly planned in all its parts, combining the lighter graces of the Oriental pavilion with every domestic accommodation peculiar to the English farm house. The occasional visitor will be particularly struck with the library, not indeed for its spaciousness, but for the very valuable materials of which it is composed, the books being selected by a man, whose sound learning, solid judgment, and classical taste, are only to be equalled by the goodness of his heart, and the dignified refinement of his manners. It is moreover furnished with a complete set of astronomical instruments besides the necessary apparatus for making chemical experiments. This delightful villa reposes in the centre of a lawn of living verdure, whose boundaries are moistened and fertilized by the tranquil waters of a winding rivulet, which steals along in unambitious silence, enclosing, like some guardian liminary spirit, this little Elysium within its magic circle. At a short distance to the left stands one of the country seats of the Lord Torrington. The back front presents a remote

view of the village, its church and handsome spire. The left commands a pretty prospect of some finely wooded hills, which form an umbrageous barrier to shelter this retreat of philosophy and taste ; and on the right, the landscape is beautifully diversified by numerous rural residences, and highly improved farms, through which, visible at intervals with its motley groups of living lumber, runs the great road leading to the metropolis. In this sweet seclusion, which contrasted so strongly with the scenes in which I had been so recently engaged, accompanied by my noble client, Colonel Graham, (who is brother-in-law to Dr. Forster,) and a select party of friends, I enjoyed the recreation of pheasant shooting for a week, which to me appeared composed of only a few fleeting moments, so quickly did the time glide away. During the day, eager in pursuit of the "footed or the feathered game;" in the evening lost in the "feast of reason and the flow of soul," in the delicious enjoyment of those elegancies of conversation, and that charm of accomplishments, which the worthy pastor and his family so eminently possess.

Among those to whom I feel pleased in having an opportunity of returning thanks in this public manner, for their civility and hospitality to me and my family, the Banking firm of Messrs. Marsh, Stracey, Fauntleroy, and Graham, of Berner's Street, are entitled to a distinguished place. These gentlemen, during the progress of legal proceedings, became acquainted with the history of Lord Huntingdon's claim, and had an introduction to himself ; and to the individual solicitude and friendship of each, his Lordship is much indebted, not only for their anxiety concerning his success, but for the very handsome manner in which they assisted him, at a time when the old adage applied, "that a friend in need's a friend indeed." Their liberality could only be exceeded by the sincerity of their affection, and the fatherly and fostering interest they took in his

Lordship's affairs. As to myself, I trust they will believe I feel grateful for the polite attentions I have personally experienced from them and their respective families. But to Mr. Henry Fauntleroy, I feel bound to express myself under particular obligations for the use of his very excellent library, from which I derived valuable assistance, as well as for the many attentions he has at all times been ready to show me. It was, I think, during this period of relaxation, that I made one of another shooting party, invited by Sir Edward Stracey, Bart. to enjoy a week's diversion on his estates near Norwich. Sir Edward's elegant mansion at Rackheath, where we rendezvoused, the delightful grounds, the goodness of the sport, together with the hospitality of our estimable host, one of the finest old gentlemen in Christendom, the excellence of his wine, and the harmony and conviviality of the whole party, made this one of the pleasantest excursions imaginable.

It is in moments of joy, or while recalling their evanescent existence, that the memory of the friends who are gone for ever is apt to rise upon the mind, as if to warn us against drinking too deeply of the delusions of this life. And here, while I am on the subject of friendship and gratitude, one unhappy occurrence irresistibly forces itself on my recollection. Sir Samuel Romilly, my earliest friend in England, my revered adviser, fell a victim about this time, to a momentary derangement of intellect. I hoped to have gratified him with an account of the success, which so fully justified his early opinion, and publicly thanked him for his salutary advice, as well as personal civilities towards me—but, alas! what are the hopes of earth! An afflicting visitation at once desolated the domestic hearth, wrung the bosom of friendship, and left a chasm in the counsels of the nation. The character of this genuine patriot, this good and amiable man, will constitute materials in the history of his country. I feel myself wholly incompetent to do it justice; but I trust I may, in view of the motive, be pardoned

for introducing here the following humble elegiac tribute to the memory of such worth, written at the moment, and under those deep impressions of pity, awe, and sorrow, common to all classes of society, and to all parties, on occasion of that fatal and lamented catastrophe.

## STANZAS,

## ON THE DEATH OF SIR SAMUEL ROMILLY.

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“ Mild be the doom of Heaven, as thou wert mild,  
 For oh, thy soul in holy mould was cast,  
 And all thy deeds were blameless—but the last.”

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*Pleasures of Hope.*

When fall the great, the good, the wise,  
 The victims of unworthy fate,  
 Nations weep o'er such sacrifice,  
 E'en nature's self looks desolate.

Oh, horror ! hold ! . . . . . the life-stream flows . . . . .  
 And has his frenzy found such grave ?  
 And did no angel interpose  
 To stay th' unconscious steel and save ?

Where were ye, guardian seraphs, then,  
 Who watch and guide good men below,  
 When sorrow blasted all his brain,  
 And madness blindly dared the blow ? '

Why slept your trust ? . . . . Almighty Power !  
 Shall human weakness question Thee ?  
 Our mortal, as our natal, hour  
 Is clouded up in mystery.

Yet may we mourn the patriot lost,  
 Untimely, to his country's cause,  
 The bar's, the senate's, mutual boast,  
 The light and champion of the laws.

Corruption's foe in act and soul,  
 Yet tempering all with candour fair,  
 And clear, cool, eloquence, that stole  
 Conviction ere she was aware.\*

The people's darling—by their choice,  
 With unsought honours newly crowned,  
 Yet far aloof from faction's voice,  
 Which cries "Reform," but means, confound.

The fervent friend, sincere till death,  
 The father fond, and fondly loved,  
 Pure pattern of connubial faith,  
 Too fatally, too truly proved !

Such was the man thus snatched from earth  
 By sudden and mysterious doom,—  
 The cloudless sun of public worth,  
 The gentle, gladdening, star of home.

But what is virtue,—what is fame,—  
 Or genius' fire, or learning's art,  
 When, marring all the fine-wrought frame,  
 Misfortune desolates the heart ?

Then hideous dreams of life appear,  
 Unsettling reason from her throne,  
 And madness, like a fiend of fear,  
 Usurps the ruin all her own.

Thus sunk that bright sun from its sphere,  
 Thus set that star in storms and dim ;  
 The rest we leave to Heaven—but here  
 Let pity pay her bitterest tear  
 To human nature, and to him !

To return, however, from this melancholy, but I trust pardonable, digression.—Previous to the Attorney-General's having signed the Report, I might be said literally to have haunted him ; but now that

\* "Took e'en silence ere she was aware." *Milton.*

he had performed his part, I could have no plea for pressing him further, even supposing that his influence could have the effect of expediting my client's Writ of Summons. At length, however, the happy tidings arrived ! The Report, in all its parts, received the approbation of the Lord Chancellor ; and the Prince Regent thereupon, on the 7th January, signed his Royal Warrant, empowering that officer to issue a Writ of Summons to my noble client, commanding his attendance in the then ensuing parliament, to be holden on the 14th of the same month, by the style, title, and dignity of Earl of the County of Huntingdon.

Lord Huntingdon and I were in Covent Garden theatre, when the event was communicated to us, through the politeness of my worthy and valued friend, William Peace, Esq. Lord Sidmouth's Secretary, a gentleman for whose innumerable attentions I feel truly grateful ; and to whose civility and prompt assistance, in every instance where, consistently with the confidential duties of office, he could be of service, his Lordship, also, always expressed himself much indebted. On reading the joyful news, I could scarce refrain from exclaiming, in the language of the King in Hamlet, though with widely different feelings, " Break up the play ! " Next morning, the 8th of January, I attended at Whitehall, and had the pleasure of seeing the Warrant of our gracious Prince, which, after being duly stamped, &c. was transmitted the same day to the Lord Chancellor. The *Courier* newspaper of that evening, announced the event in the following paragraph, the personal compliment to myself, comprehended in which, I owe, I understand, to a friend, who, as such, holds the first place in my affections.

" **EARLDOM OF HUNTINGDON.** We have received authority to state, that on the 7th instant, his Royal Highness the Prince Regent was graciously pleased to issue his Royal Warrant directed to

the Lord Chancellor, empowering his Lordship to issue a Writ of Summons under the Great Seal of England, to the Right Honourable Hans Francis Hastings, as Earl of Huntingdon ; and we have much pleasure in stating, that a Writ of Summons has been delivered to the Noble Peer accordingly. In announcing this event, we feel satisfied that every individual will rejoice at the restoration of this ancient title in the person of the present Lord, whose many private virtues, as a husband, father, and friend, have endeared him to all those who are honoured by his connexion or acquaintance. Lord Huntingdon's petition was only presented to his Royal Highness on the 22d of January last; and, since that period, the most satisfactory evidence has been adduced of the extinction of twelve ancestors, whose male descendants, consisting of sixty-nine persons, it was necessary to prove the absolute removal of, in order to make way for his Lordship's succession. His claim, now established, has, in the course of investigation, proved much more interesting than any similar one that we have heard of, and its interest has been considerably increased by the nature of the evidence, and the amazing rapidity with which it has been brought to so happy a conclusion. Such speedy and fortunate result is, we understand, owing to the exertions of Henry Nugent Bell, Esq. at present a Student of the Inner Temple, of whose professional conduct the Attorney-General expressed his approbation in the highest terms, by stating, "that, in the whole course of his legal knowledge he had never known a case conducted with more honour, fidelity, ability, and zeal, and that it reflected the highest credit on Mr. Bell's character and talents." We must, therefore, in justice to this Gentleman, say, that his Lordship has been most fortunate in finding such a professional friend ; and that his value will be duly appreciated there cannot be a doubt."

On the 9th of January I went to the office of the Clerk of the

Crown, in Chancery Lane, for instructions, and in furtherance of the necessary arrangements and preparations for my noble Client's approaching *debut* in the House of Peers. Early on the morning of the 14th, I waited on Mr. Peacock, Messenger to the Great Seal, and we proceeded together to the residence of the Lord Chancellor, where I obtained the Writ of Summons, and had the very flattering honour deputed to me of delivering it to Lord Huntingdon with my own hands. This most grateful duty I accordingly performed, with a due observance of etiquette, before 12 o'clock at noon, in the presence of his Lordship's assembled family and my own. The interesting scene which followed will be more easily imagined than described. Suffice it to say, that our mutual congratulations were warm and sincere, and our triumph complete and heartfelt, reflected back, as it was, from the affectionate eyes of the endearing circle which surrounded us, and "coming mended" through that tender medium. At two o'clock Lord Huntingdon, accompanied by his uncle, Thomas Fowler, Esq. and myself, called on the Marquis of Ely, who had been on terms of the most friendly intimacy with his Lordship, for some years before, and who now politely consented to introduce the new Peer to the House. On the arrival of their Lordships, Mr. Fowler and I proceeded with them to the Bar, when Lord Huntingdon advanced to the table, and delivered his Writ of Summons to Mr. Cooper, the Clerk, and was then introduced by the Marquis to several of the Peers. These preliminary forms gone through, Lord Shaftesbury, Chairman of the Committee, my noble client's cordial and steady friend, requested to confer with him in his private room, where I was soon after summoned to attend. On my entering, Lord Shaftesbury informed me, that it was the opinion of some of the Officers of the House, that the Earl of Huntingdon's pedigree should be first entered on the records of the House before



he could be properly sworn, his Lordship being of royal descent, and therefore, that every thing might be done in a regular way, and according to law, suggested to me the propriety of his Lordship's deferring to take the oaths till next day. To this proposal, not being aware of the course usually adopted in such cases, I replied, that I was not prepared to give an immediate answer, and that if it were necessary, or conformable to practice, I did not see the material difference which a day's delay could make, but requested, nevertheless, to be allowed a few moments to consider the subject. I then retired to seek Sir George Naylor, to whose obliging attentions, on various occasions, I am much indebted, as he had assured me, the preceding day, he would attend the House to see my Client take his seat. I was lucky enough to find him, and quickly made him acquainted with the difficulty. He was of opinion, that Lord Huntingdon should be sworn, and that there was no precedent for the precautions mentioned by the Officers\* to the Earl of Shaftesbury, as necessary in this case. Impressed with the truth of these sentiments, which were confirmatory of my own, I called Lord Huntingdon apart, and requested him, in the strongest terms, to insist on being sworn, pursuant to his Writ of Summons. I suspected some unfair and concealed influence was at work, to baffle and delay us even on the very threshold of victory, and how far this suspicion was founded will appear in the sequel. I also made use of the same arguments to Lord Shaftesbury, who, highly to his Lordship's credit, concurred; and, in a few moments after, I had the satisfaction of seeing my noble client duly sworn a Peer of the Imperial Parliament, and sign the roll as such. Then, indeed, and not till then, could I venture, like another faithful *Achates*, to exclaim, "*Italiam! Italiam!*" I then had the honour and felicity of congratulating his

\* There is no impropriety imputed here to any of the Officers of the House of Lords.

Lordship as third Earl of the kingdom, in good earnest ; and it will ever be a question with me, which was the more pleased of the two, on the fortunate accession to his high ancestral dignities. The bells of Westminster announced the joyful event ; and the happy party who met at his Lordship's hospitable board that evening, celebrated it in something more than *sounds*. In fact, it was, to parody the Poet,

Turning the *tuneful* art  
From *sounds* to things, from fancy to the heart.

The following morning I held a *levee*, for the reception of bell-ringers, door-keepers, marrow-bones and cleavers, &c. who all came to offer their congratulations on his Lordship's accession, and have a specimen of his bounty into the bargain. I dismissed these kind souls so well pleased with the result of their audience, that some among them good-humouredly predicted that, "if I only lived long enough, I should surely be Chancellor yet," in view of which brilliant destiny, an additional crown could, of course, be no consideration.

The happy consummation of my labours, in the firm establishment of my noble Client in the title, speedily spread, and created general satisfaction among his Lordship's friends. This feeling was evinced in a very flattering and spirited manner at Enniskillen, in Ireland, where his Lordship had resided for several years. The conduct of the inhabitants, on the arrival of the news, is thus described in the *Erne Packet*, an intelligent and respectable newspaper, published in that town :

"EARL OF HUNTINGDON.—On Saturday night, the inhabitants of Enniskillen paid a very flattering tribute of respect to this esteemed Nobleman, on the successful issue of his claims to the

Peerage, by a splendid and general illumination. Many of the houses were tastefully decorated, and some appropriate transparencies exhibited. Tar barrels were burned in different parts of the town, and various other demonstrations of public joy manifested. Several vessels of excellent porter were sent from the brewery to the Market-place, and distributed among the populace, whose reiterated acclamations testified their feelings on this joyous occasion. The urbanity, conciliating manners, and benevolent disposition of Lord Huntingdon, and his amiable Countess, during a residence of more than ten years in this place, commanded the esteem and attachment of all ranks, and justly merited this offering of congratulation."

On the 16th of January, two days after Lord Huntingdon had taken his seat, I was in no small degree surprised by the receipt of the following note from the Attorney-General :

" Dear Sir,

" I wish to have a copy of my Report in the Huntingdon case ; and I want particularly to see that part of it which relates to the descent of the Earl, Hans Francis Hastings, from Sir Edward Hastings, Knight, who stood first in the Genealogical Table, No. 3.

" Sincerely yours,

" S. SHEPHERD."

I lost not a moment in carrying a copy of the Report to Sir Samuel, whom I found at his house in company with Sir Robert Gifford, the then Solicitor, but now Attorney-General. On expressing my astonishment at the nature of his summons, he proceeded to acquaint me with the cause. Insinuations, he said, had been thrown out, that Sir Edward Hastings, ancestor of the present Earl, died without issue male, and that the only evidence, which

proved the contrary, was the Visitation, signed by Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, in 1681-2, and that signed in 1681, by Henry Hastings, of Belgrave, the alleged great-grandson of Sir Edward Hastings. I submitted, at the moment, that, besides the evidence of these two Visitations, I had produced the Registry of St. Mary's, in Leicester, in which he had read the entry of the burial of Mabel, wife of Sir Henry Hastings, only surviving son of Sir Edward Hastings, and which entry exactly corresponded with the two Visitations alluded to; and also the Countess of Moira's letter, showing, that the reputation of her family, for a period of two centuries was, that Sir Edward Hastings had a son Sir Henry, ancestor of the restored branch. As doubts, however, did seem, or were pretended, to be entertained, I told Sir Samuel I was determined to put them to rest for ever, and strengthen, if possible, his own conviction in this particular. Accordingly, mustering my not yet disbanded forces, I attended him next day; and first brought forward an old funeral certificate\* from the College of Arms, together with the order of procession at the funeral of George, the fourth Earl of Huntingdon, in 1604, by both of which it appeared, that Sir Edward Hastings, Knight, brother to the said deceased Earl, and his son Henry Hastings, were two Chief Mourners. I then produced Burton's Description of Leicestershire, printed in 1641, in black letter, which gives a character of Mabel, the wife of this Henry, and a copy of the inscription on her monument, which runs thus: "Here lyeth buried the virtuous lady, and most worthy of all honour, Mabel, late wife of Sir Henry Hastings, Knight, soone of Sir Edward Hastings, soone of Francis, Earl of Huntingdon. She

\* For the production of this and various other highly important and interesting documents, I am indebted to the kindness and attention of William Woods, Esq. Blue Mantle, whose known ability and talents justly entitle him to the first rank in his profession.

was daughter of Anthony Faunt, of Fauston." I next placed under Sir Samuel's notice an old edition of Collins's and Edmondson's Heraldry; in the latter of which there is a plate of the armorial quarterings of the late Earl, presented by his Lordship to the author of that work, together with his pedigree, in which the marriage of Sir Edward Hastings with Barbara Devereux, widow of Edward Cave, is set forth, and that they had two sons, Sir Henry, the eldest, and Walter, the second, who died without issue. I then brought forward the copy of a deed, (the original being in the Bodleian Library, in the Collection of Samuel Carte,) dated in June, 1603, and executed by George, Earl of Huntingdon, Henry Lord Hastings, his grandson, and several trustees; of whom "Sir Edward Hastings, Knight, brother to the Earl, and his son, Henry Hastings, Esq." are two. After this, I produced, from the Rolls Chapel, a livery of certain estates, dated twenty-third of Elizabeth, to Sir Edward Hastings, Knight, in right of his wife Barbara, daughter and co-heir of Sir William Devereux, Knight; and a licence granted in the seventh of James the First, to Sir Henry Hastings, and Mabel, his wife, to alienate these lands. To all these accumulated proofs, I finally superadded the authority of Simmond's Diary, published in 1645, which states, that this Sir Henry Hastings purchased Humberston from the heiress of Keble, and that Henry, his eldest son, lived there in private. Such a confluent host of evidence must silence all future objections on this point, and more than satisfied the Attorney-General, who in fact had no scruples of his own, but, wished, from a strict sense of duty, to quiet all doubts, real or pretended, on the part of others. He took special abstracts from all these proofs, and transmitted them to the Lord Chancellor as confirmatory of his Report. The examination of the several documents occupied Sir Samuel and me a whole day, assisted by Sir George

Naylor, who attended on the occasion. It was Sir Samuel's wish to remove even the slightest shadow of foundation for murmurs; and the proceedings of this day effectually accomplished that wish, as no voice has since dared to insinuate a suspicion of the solidity of the evidence, or the justice of the decision. A fresh, and, if possible, still more conclusive proof, bearing on the particular point in question, has come into my hands within the last few months. In the course of our search for the acts of the late Earl relative to the settlement of his estates, Mr. Evans, Agent and Solicitor to the Marquis of Hastings, has had occasion to furnish Lord Huntingdon with the copy of a deed, dated in June, 1691, and executed by Theophilus, seventh Earl, the same who signed the Visitation in 1682, in which the Testator mentions Henry Hastings, the great-grandson of Sir Edward Hastings, and grand-uncle of the present Earl, and entails the estates of Donnington and Melbourne on him and his issue male, in failure of issue male of Testator's own body, and of some descendants of Henry Hastings, of Woodlands, all of whom, as has been fully proved, are now quite extinct. The mention of this deed, which is important in more points than the one immediately under consideration, leads me to the question of property. Long before Lord Huntingdon's accession to the Peerage, he had determined to apply to his relative, the Marquis of Hastings, for the quiet possession of the alienated estates of his predecessors in the Earldom, as soon as that desirable event should be consummated. Accordingly, when the first bustle of business and feeling, consequent on success, had subsided, and affairs began to flow in a steady channel, his Lordship, under a complete ignorance, however, of the existence of the above-mentioned deed, addressed the following letter to the Marquis, of which three copies were forwarded by different vessels to provide against casualties on the voyage :

“ My Lord Marquis,

“ London, February 23, 1819.

“ I presume your Lordship has already been apprized of the establishment of my right to the Earldom of Huntingdon, and of my having, in consequence, been called to my seat in the House of Peers. I am led to believe, that there are considerable estates held by your Lordship, which are vested in me as Earl of Huntingdon, and I entertain a confident hope, that your Lordship will give orders for the immediate surrender of them.

“ It is my intention to refrain from taking any legal measures for asserting my rights to any of such estates possessed by your Lordship, or persons claiming under you, until the usual time shall have intervened for my receiving your Lordship's answer to this application, excepting only such as will be founded on a presumption of your compliance, and my making such entries as the lapse of time, since the deaths of my father and uncle, may render indispensably necessary.

“ I must add, however, one other exception. I am grieved to say, I have ascertained, that the most wanton waste and destruction have been committed, or permitted, at Donnington, and its neighbourhood; and it is therefore possible I may feel compelled to apply to a Court of Equity to prevent the continuance of these depredations. But such a measure will, I am persuaded, meet your Lordship's approbation, inasmuch as it must conduce to the interest of the person entitled, whether your Lordship or myself.

“ Should your Lordship entertain doubts as to the title of any part of the Huntingdon estates, I have to request your Lordship will have the goodness to give explicit directions to your agents here, for me to have access to the title deeds in your possession; and authorize them (in case of difficulty) to concur with me in

obtaining the judgment of a Court of Law, or Equity, at the least possible expense.

“ Without troubling your Lordship more at length, I appeal to your own noble mind, for pursuing such a course, in regard to my claims, as honour and a sense of justice shall dictate.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ My Lord Marquis,

“ Your Lordship’s obedient humble Servant,

“ HUNTINGDON.”

“ To the Most Noble the Marquis of Hastings,  
Governor-General of India, &c. &c.”

About this period, we deemed it adviseable, with a view to the contemplated proceedings for the recovery of the estates, to retain the Attorney-General, among other eminent Counsel, on our side. I accordingly wrote to Sir Samuel for that purpose, and received the following letter in reply. Whatever hesitation I may have on the score of personal delicacy in publishing it, I feel it to be an act of justice due to the unimpeached integrity, and rectitude of principle, displayed by that upright officer, and truly excellent man, in discharging his duty on this occasion, as well as on every other of his professional life. In his public capacity, the approbation of his conscience, the favour of his Prince, and the applause of the enlightened and unprejudiced portion of the country, are susceptible of no addition from the praise of an individual humble as myself; but for his flattering and liberal personal civilities towards me, I am anxious to record my deep and undying impressions of gratitude. That I have been permitted to enjoy the confidence, advice, and friendship of Sir Samuel Shèpherd, I shall always consider one of



the proudest circumstances of my life ; and, as he knows my honest motives, I trust he will forgive my publishing this dignified proof how much and greatly he was superior to every consideration but truth and justice :

“ Dear Sir,

“ You must suffer me to return the retainer you have sent me on the part of the Earl of Huntingdon ; but at the same time it is necessary for me to state to you my reasons for so doing, and I will request you to communicate them to your noble Client, as it is right he should be satisfied upon the subject. The title which he may set up to the recovery of any property will probably mainly rest on the establishment of his pedigree, which was the foundation of his claim to the peerage, and which I reported to his Royal Highness to be clearly and satisfactorily made out. Though you know, and *I am sure*, that, in the laborious investigation of that case, I examined it with the strictest impartiality, and was perfectly indifferent as to the result, except in so far as I was anxious to form an opinion consistent with the truth and justice of the claim ; yet there are persons, who might suppose, or say, that I looked at it with the prejudices of an advocate, and was biassed in my judgment. I will not put myself in the possible situation of giving rise to such an observation, nor shall your noble Client's interests be affected by any notion that my Report on his title to the dignity and honours he has obtained, could be founded on any thing but a fair and unbiassed judgment, even if it were erroneous. I feel myself more at liberty to decline taking the retainer, than perhaps I otherwise should be, from the circumstance of my being under the necessity of declining almost all business, which is not

official, whilst I am in my present office. I hope these reasons will be satisfactory to the Earl of Huntingdon and yourself, and therefore I have taken the liberty of enclosing the fee you sent me.

“ I am, dear Sir,

“ Yours ever truly,

“ SAMUEL SHEPHERD.”

“ Serjeant's Inn, March 4, 1819.”

Soon after this, Lord Huntingdon, accompanied by Josias Henry Stracey, Esq. Colonel Graham, Member of Parliament for Kinross, and myself, went down to Leicester in his Lordship's carriage, to make the entries alluded to in the foregoing letter to the Marquis of Hastings. We reached Ashby-de-la-Zouch\* on Saturday, the 6th of March, to the great joy of the inhabitants, who, when the object of our visit became generally known, pressed round us in hundreds to get a glimpse of his Lordship, and express their simple, but honest and hearty congratulations. Several poor old men fell on their knees, and blessed him as he alighted from his carriage. These testimonies of attachment and respect his Lordship received and returned with the most affable condescension; and, after he entered the inn, he went forward and showed himself at the window, saluting the assembled and eager multitude, who spoke their spontaneous welcome by reiterated cheers. In the course of the evening, many persons from the neighbourhood of Belton, who had been his play-mates, when a boy, requested to have the honour of seeing him, and among the rest an old tenant, who, in his Lordship's infantile days, had been a special favourite. This man was introduced, and his Lordship, instantly recognising him, shook him good-naturedly and

\* Lord Huntingdon entered this town late in the evening as privately as possible, but his carriage was instantly recognized by the inhabitants and country people who had been attending the market.

unceremoniously by the hand. Honest Hodge, somewhat confused, stared a considerable time at his former, but long-forgotten, acquaintance, and at last told him he did not recollect him, and that he had his doubts if he were Master Frank, the youngest son of Colonel George Hastings. "What!" said his Lordship, with that frankness and unaffected good humour peculiar to him, "is it possible you can forget me? I am sure I remember you very well; and I perfectly recollect the day we were skaiting together on the Horse Pond, at the back of Billy Toone's house, in Belton, when I tumbled you souse into the hole made for the cows to drink out of, and then gave you a penny, and my new pair of Christmas gloves, not to tell or cry!"—"Ah! by G—d, you are Master Frank, sure enough!" exclaimed the delighted farmer, whose recollection was awakened by the circumstance, and whose dilated features broadly evinced his satisfaction at the discovery. His Lordship desired him to get his dinner, and then to toast the hand that ducked him in the horse-pond, till he was as drunk as an emperor, which liberty the worthy fellow hastened to avail himself of.

Numbers of the most respectable farmers were in attendance on his Lordship during his stay in Ashby, and one universal sentiment of gladness and congratulation seemed to actuate the minds of the entire population of the country, with the exception of the Marquis of Hastings's Steward, the Vicar and his family, and a few others, who were alarmed for the safety of the property which they had purchased. His Lordship announced his intention of attending divine worship the following day, Sunday, and desired me to write to Mr. M'Dowell, the Vicar, that he would feel obliged if the family pew of the Earls of Huntingdon would be prepared for his reception. To this a reply was sent, stating, that if his Lordship demanded access to the pew, it would be shut against him. Next day, on entering the church, we found a person placed in it by

order of one Mammott, Steward to the Marquis, who informed us he had orders not to allow his Lordship to enter, on learning which, he passed into an adjoining pew prepared for him. I mention this otherwise trivial circumstance, merely to show the stupid folly and hostile spirit, which so weakly and injudiciously manifested itself on the part of the noble Marquis's agents.\* It is worthy of observation, that part of the church service of this day peculiarly applied to the circumstances attending his Lordship's restoration to the title. The following verses from the thirty-fifth Psalm, to which I allude, exhibit a coincidence altogether remarkable :

" Plead thou my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me; and fight thou against them that fight against me.

" For they have privily laid their net to destroy me without a cause: yea, even without a cause have they made a pit for my soul.

" Let a sudden destruction come on him unawares; and his net, that he hath laid privily, catch himself: that he may fall into his own mischief.

" All my bones shall say, Lord, who is like unto thee, who deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him; yea, the poor, and him that is in misery, from him that spoileth him.

" False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things which I knew not.

" I behaved myself as though it had been my friend, or my brother: I went heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.

" Judge me, O Lord my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not triumph over me.

" Let them not say in their hearts, There, there, so would we have it: neither let them say, We have devoured him."

I trust I shall be spared any improper imputation for transcribing these passages, which, at the moment, and on the occasion, excited a more than ordinary feeling in our minds, as well as in those of the whole of the congregation present.

\* No imputation whatever can by possibility attach to the noble Marquis, who must necessarily have been ignorant of those proceedings, and of the chain of events which led Lord Huntingdon to Ashby on this occasion.

Lord Huntingdon invited a few friends to dine with him this day, among whom was Mr. Charles Moseley, of Derby, a gentleman who, I am glad to have an opportunity of saying, has, at all times, manifested every disposition to be serviceable to his Lordship, and whose professional character and integrity require not my humble praise to increase their estimation. On Monday, the 8th of March, our party proceeded to the ruins of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Castle, to make entry on that spot so memorable in English history. To this venerated scene, consecrated by so many family recollections, his Lordship was accompanied by proper witnesses, and an immense concourse of spectators, anxious to see his person, and be present at the legal ceremony. At the gate leading into the field in which the Castle stood, we were met by Mr. Leonard Piddock, Solicitor, who was deputed to forbid his Lordship's entry.\* After he had done so, in the usual manner, he mixed with the others; and it is due to this gentleman to observe, that his conduct throughout was decorous and respectful, unmingled with any asperity, and must have been highly satisfactory to all parties interested. When his Lordship had reached the proper spot, the pressure of the crowd became so great, that it was impossible to make the entry in the sight and hearing of the appointed witnesses, unless the people would give place. Under, or rather in the *middle* of these circumstances, his Lordship jocularly called out, "Gentlemen, make a ring, and let me have fair play!" This kind of *milling* appeal, though his Lordship is by no means connected with *the Fancy*, had the desired effect. The crowd made a centrifugal motion, leaving sufficient space for our operations, and settling at once into the stillness of attention. We then proceeded with the necessary ceremony, which

\* It was his Lordship's earnest wish that none should be present except Mr. Piddock and the necessary witnesses, but he found it impossible to leave the inn even for a moment without being surrounded by crowds.

was finished in a few minutes, and seconded by spontaneous and unanimous acclamation. Every part of the old Castle ruins, on which it was possible to perch, or cling to, was literally alive with spectators, whose cheers must have been heard at a considerable distance. The noble Lord having intimated his intention to speak to the people, silence was again obtained, and he then addressed them with the animation naturally excited by such a scene. "He came not there, he said, to deprive any man of his property, but merely to seek the recovery of that, which he was advised, and which he believed, was his hereditary right. The present ceremony was nothing more than a mere form of law, for the execution of which, he was aware, he left himself open to an action of trespass, but it was a necessary step on his part in order to anticipate certain statutes, within the operation of which the lapse of time had nearly brought him. That the land, on which he stood, was his, he would not presume to say, but he believed it to be his lawful inheritance, and as such made entry on it. If he should prove successful in the further prosecution of his rights, he begged them to believe his intentions and feelings towards them, as friends and tenantry, would be suitable to so interesting a connexion, and such as a well-disposed landlord might cherish and avow. His predecessors, he said, whose remains lay in yonder cemetery, (pointing to the contiguous chapel of St. Helen's, where many of the Earls are buried,) had been their lords for centuries past, and had always carried with them to their graves the prayers and regrets of their people. It would be his highest ambition to imitate their example. His maxim would be, "Live and let live;" for nothing should give a landlord greater gratification than to see a happy and flourishing tenantry around him. As for the boys here, if it please God that I recover these possessions, I promise to keep a pack of the best dogs in the country for

their amusement ; and as for the girls, they shall all have husbands, without hunting for them. Now, my friends, I entreat you to return to your several homes, and take with you my warmest thanks for this early manifestation of your good disposition towards me, and my best wishes for your prosperity and happiness ! God bless you all !” His Lordship concluded under evident emotions of sympathy honourable to his heart, and amidst the applause and blessings of the multitude. Tears of delight ran down the furrowed cheeks of many of the old people present, and the joy of the junior classes amounted to enthusiasm. The walls of old Ashby, whose echoes had long slept in the silence of ruin, once more reverberated to the voice of triumph and jubilee, while the church bells from the village, peal on peal, merrily joined the chorus of acclamation. His Lordship, escorted and nearly carried by the crowd, returned to the Inn, almost overpowered by his feelings, and the demonstrations of sincerity, attachment, and devotion, he had received from those among whom his father, his brothers, and himself, had been reared from infancy. This recollection, the associations of birth and boyhood, doubly endeared every expression of affection for his family ; and few there were then present, who were not disposed to execrate the conduct of the late Earl, who, under a cover of culpable duplicity, and by a cruel and cold-blooded deception, conveyed away, from the next eldest male descendant of his noble house, and the known, and I may say, recognized, heir to its dignities, the possessions, which for centuries enabled the successive proprietors to maintain the lustre of its antiquity, and the princely blood from which they sprang.

A band of music was in attendance, and enlivened this highly interesting scene by playing a variety of appropriate airs. The crowd, to whom abundant refreshments had been distributed by Lord Huntingdon’s orders, seemed unwilling to disperse, and, on ascertaining

that his Lordship was about to proceed to Belton, they expressed their determination to draw him thither, and insisted the horses should not be put to his carriage. It was impossible to argue down this ebullition of popular feeling, and, in this triumphant style, his Lordship left the White Hart, now the Huntingdon Arms, greatly pleased with the zealous attentions of Mr. Wright, the landlord, whose civility to his guests in general is eminently worthy of praise, and public favour. As the procession moved through the streets of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the windows were crowded with female beauty, for which that place has always been famous, and many a bright eye and snowy bosom beamed and breathed in sympathy, while the rougher sex tossed their hats high in air to the often and enthusiastically repeated cry of "Long live the Plantagenet! the Hastings! Long live the race of King Edward!" At the distance of about a mile from the town, his Lordship requested the tenantry to suffer his horses to take their places, to which with difficulty they were prevailed on to consent, and partially disperse. But several gentlemen, and the principal farmers, well mounted, accompanied us to Belton, and thence to Donnington Park. At Belton, his Lordship, animated with sentiments of filial piety, and affectionate remembrance, paid a visit to the tomb of his father. In performing this sacred duty, and reviving relations and recollections so holy to the heart, all joy was forgotten for the moment. It might have seemed the humbling tribute of human prosperity paid to the common lot of all, but it was the homage of love offered at the altar of nature; and if our immortal part is permitted in a future state to share the joys of those who were dear on earth, how much must the spirit of the deceased have been gratified at the events that were then passing among his posterity!

Before we left Belton, Lord Huntingdon waited on Mrs. Toone,



whose husband died a few days before the final substantiation of his Lordship's claim. Mr. Toone, for many years a most respectable and upright magistrate of that town, had been the early friend of his Lordship's infancy; and his joy, it is not to be doubted, would have been sincere had he survived to witness the scenes of that day. After the populace, who here also assembled in great numbers, had been refreshed with some barrels of ale, we proceeded to Melbourne, where his Lordship made entry in the name of all the lands in the county of Derby, late in the possession of the Earls of Huntingdon, &c.; and having ordered the people to be suitably regaled, proceeded to Donnington Park.

The Steward, as we were informed, had given directions to shut the gates, and not admit so unwelcome a visitant; but scarce had we appeared before them when, as if by instinct, or the agency of some invisible power, they flew open, upon which his Lordship entered, and his attendants, amounting to upwards of an hundred persons on horseback, galloped after into this enchanting demesne. The park was thronged with persons of both sexes, who greeted him as he passed along. After he had taken a view of the grounds and improvements, an incident occurred, which I cannot refrain from relating here, as it shows his Lordship's goodness of heart, and amiable disposition, to say nothing about the gallantry of the thing. He was returning to his carriage when his attention was attracted by a young female, who ran towards him with more speed than seemed to be called for by ordinary motives of curiosity. His Lordship pulled up, and we all waited, with no small degree of interest, to know the business of the fair fugitive. On her approach, she was quite out of breath, but as soon as she could make herself audible, she requested, in a most imploring tone, to be informed whether the Earl of Huntingdon had left the park? "Why do you ask, my sweet

girl?" demanded his Lordship. "Oh, Sir," replied she, "my mother was a servant in the family for twenty years, and I would not for the world miss seeing of him, but I am not able, alas! to go further, for I have run almost the whole way from Melbourne, near three miles." Here the innocent girl, whose natural grace and perfect loveliness of form and features, struck all present with admiration, became quite overpowered with her feelings at the disappointment she conceived she had experienced. But his Lordship, hastening to relieve her, dismounted from his horse, and taking her kindly by the hand, said, "*I am the Earl of Huntingdon. Come, as you have had so long a race, it shall not be for nothing. Give me a kiss.*" The interesting girl courtesied her satisfaction and thanks with the most engaging and amiable simplicity, and walked with us to the park gate, whence, with at least two hundred others of her sex, and the rest of our convoy, she followed his Lordship's carriage to Castle Donnington. As the cavalcade entered the town, the bells bade us welcome, and at the inn here, as at Ashby, a band of music was in attendance, which hailed our approach, and cheered our stay, with exhilarating strains of harmony. We dined at the Turk's Head, and, in addition to our party, had the pleasure of the company of the Rev. Mr. Burnaby, of Leicester, and his son. The weather, as if in compliment to the occasion, was most delightful; and I dare be sworn, this town was not so crowded, so gay, or so happy, for a hundred years before. The lads and lasses danced opposite the door of the inn during the evening, and a great part of the night, and a more lovely levee of village maidens the universe could not boast, Castle Donnington being proverbially remarkable for the beauty and vivacity of its women. With a few baskets of roses, and a little help from imagination, I could have fancied myself in the vale of Cashmere. We spent a most social and delicious evening,

and next morning, attended by hundreds of the tenantry, who drew his Lordship's carriage more than a mile from the town, besides some thousands of others of both sexes, proceeded for Loughborough, through Kegworth. On our approach to this last place, the horses were again taken from the carriage and his Lordship drawn through the town. At Loughborough his reception was equally flattering ; and at Leicester, to which we next advanced, the Mayor and Body Corporate waited on his Lordship with their congratulations, and remained with him a considerable time. Next day we proceeded to the delightful residence of Charles Mansell, of Cosgrove, Esq. in Northamptonshire, which we reached just in time for dinner, and met a numerous party of our worthy host's friends, among whom were Mr. Hoare, the Banker, and his beautiful daughters. The following morning, we set out for London, where his Lordship safely joined his happy family and numerous friends, who, let the result be what it may respecting the recovery of the Huntingdon estates, were truly delighted at the reception he had met with, as it fully evinced the warm surviving attachment of the people of Leicestershire for his family.

Having carried down the proceedings to this point, it is now time to take leave of the subject, which I will do with a few general observations, serving as epilogue to a narrative of events not altogether undramatic in their progress, connexion, and denouement. It will be obvious that the prosecution of my task frequently, and necessarily, brought me into contact with topics of a delicate nature ; but in performing a duty like mine, something must unavoidably be said and divulged, notwithstanding every proper tenderness towards individual feeling. It is not, I suppose, to be expected that, exercising the character, and indulging the privileges, perhaps prejudices, of an advocate, I should play a neutral part, or suppress an occasional

comment on circumstances and conduct which came under my review. One precaution connected with these professional privileges I feel it candid to snperadd here. Whatever facts I have now made public, and whatever inferences, affecting my contemporaries, or others, I may have been induced sometimes to draw therefrom, are entirely and exclusively the result of my own unbiassed judgment, equally independent of the views or feelings, and equally without the knowledge, instruction, or concurrence, of any party interested. Anxious only to promote the great ends of truth and justice, I have recognized no subordinate principle, submitted to no dictation, and consulted no personal sanction for opinions elicited by the abstract merits of the case itself. With the tone of these opinions, therefore, neither party can be identified. They may prove as unpalatable to the one, as to the other, for any thing I know to the contrary ; but I alone can be justly held responsible for the exercise of my own discretion on the subject. In commencing my undertaking, which, if not a difficult, was at least, a delicate one, I proposed to myself the motto, “ Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice ;” and though I have often in my progress felt it necessary to relax from the strict letter of the first part of this excellent historical statute, yet the latter clause I have uniformly held sacred and inviolate. Much collateral matter, after all, connected with my noble client’s succession, still remains untold, of which, though withheld at present through motives of courtesy or prudence, pending and contingent events may render the disclosure, in some literary shape, expedient at a future day. For the rest, I cannot but be conscious, on reflection, that the intensity of my zeal, and my devotion to the cause, acting upon perhaps some degree of inexperience, may have sometimes induced me to travel out of the statute, (to apply that phrase,) and may have given the subject a consequence and magnitude, in

my own estimation, which the mere curious and indifferent observer cannot, and is not required to, recognize. I am, moreover, aware, that many incidental circumstances, interwoven with the main business for the purpose of relieving the dulness of legal details, will be deemed extraneous by some, and may subject me to the application of Horace's critical censure :

Humano capiti cervicem pictor equinam  
Jungere si velit, et varias inducere plumas  
Undique collatis membris, ut turpiter atrum  
Desinat in piscem mulier formosa superne, &c.

Nevertheless, after all these deductions, which I concede out of pure good humour, and to propitiate the more fastidious, I trust the materials themselves, however arranged and ornamented, will be found genuine and accurate, and that my narrative will be allowed the praise of conveying a fair and intelligible view of the case and its merits to the professional and general reader. As the case itself is, I may say, without precedent, I consulted none in framing my Report of it. If the one stands alone in point of law, I am content to have the other censured as a *unique* in law literature, and shall gladly submit to be abused as an innovator on such consolatory terms.

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At the conclusion of this narrative, and in connexion with it, I wish to avail myself of the opportunity to state, that, from the predominance of a particular turn of mind, and from my studies having taken that peculiar direction, it is my present intention to confine my future professional exertions principally, if not exclusively, to the investigation of cases of disputed or confused pedigree, and to the recovery of titles in abeyance, dormant, or deemed extinct. In prosecuting any business of this specific description, with the ma-

nagement of which I may hereafter be confidentially honoured, let me be permitted, without incurring the imputation of vanity, to express a hope, that the disposal of the claim, the details of which are now submitted to the public, will furnish a satisfactory guarantee of the unremitting zeal and perseverance, which it shall ever be my first duty and highest pride to feel and exercise on behalf of my clients, and for the expeditious advancement of their wishes and interests.



## APPENDIX.

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### WILL OF WILLIAM LORD HASTINGS.

IN the name of God amen, I William Hastings Knt. Lord Hastings, being in hool mynde &c. the 27 day of June in the yere &c. MCCCCLXXXI<sup>o</sup> ordeign &c. my last will and testament as well of my land, as of my goods in the forme articulierly following. First I comyt and byqueth my sowle unto Almighty God my Maker and Redeemer humbly besechyng hym to accept hit to his mercy and grace. And forasmoch as the Kyng of his abundant grace for the trew service that I have doon, and at the leest entended to have doon, to his Grace hath willed and offred me to be buried in the college or chapel of Seynt George at Wyndesore in a place by his Grace assigned, in the which college his Highness is disposed to be buried, I therefore bequeth my simple body to be buried in the sayd chapell and college in the said place &c. and wolle that there be ordeigned a tumber convenient for me by myne executors, and for the costs of the same I bequeath c marks. Also I wolle that myne Executors dispose and gif to the Minister of divine service and funerall observances the day of burying, and to the pore Knights there present the same day, and in other dedes of alms by their discretion xx pounds of lawful money of England. Also I woll that in all goodly haste after my decease a juell of gold or sylver to the value of xx pounds be given &c. to the Deane and Chanons of the said chapel or college there to remain perpetually to the honour of God, and for a memorial for me. Also I woll that my feoffees, by the oversight of myne executors, gif and amortize lands, &c. to the yearly value of xx pounds over all charges to the Deane and Chanons aforesayd, and to their successors to the intent that they shall perpetually fynde a preste, to say daylie masse and divine service at the awter next to the place where my body shall be buried, in the sayd chapell or college, and there to pray daylie for the King's prosperous estate during his life and after his dethe for his sowle, for the sowles of me, my wif and for all Christen sowles &c. And the same Deane and Chanons and their successors, shall daylie finde &c. brede and wyne, wex, vestiments, boke, chalice and alle other ornaments necessarie for the same preists &c. and shall kepe a solempne obite yerely in the said chapell and college, at such day, and under such forme as by myne Executors and the said Deane and Chanons shall be ordeigned and agreed. Also I woll that myn Executors giff to the said Deane and Chanons two vestments, and alle other things thereto belonging, two awter clothes, a masse



the same colledge x pounds to pray for my soule. Also I woll that myne executors do make new and edify the chapell of our Lady called the chapell on the Brigge at Leicestre, and for the making thereof c pounds. Also &c. that they find a preste in the same chapell by the space of seaven yeres next after my decease to say daily masse &c. in the same chapell, and other prayers, as shall be ordeigned by myne executors and for the performing thereof. Item &c. to the parish church of Asheby-de la-Zowch a sute and vestments with an awter cloth accordyng &c. to the value of cs, and to pray for my soule. Also &c. finde a preste &c. to say daylie for me and the soules afore reherced, masse there and other prayers &c. for the doing thereof I bequethe fifty pounds of lawful money of England. Also I wolle that my gown of velvet to make a vestment of, and cs of lawful money of England to pray for my soule and the soules before reherced. Also I wolle that myne executors giff to my sister Dame Elizabeth Donne c marks. Also I bequeath to the marriages of my neices the daughters of John Brokesby cc marks. Also &c. to the marriage of the daughter of my brother Ferrers c marks. Also when George Erle of Shrewsbury, whose warde and marriage to be me is granted, &c. hath married Anne my daughter, I woll that if the same Erle should die, as God defend before any carnall knowlydge betwyne the same Erle and her had, that then Thomas brother of the said Erle take to wif her the same Anne, if the law of the church will suffre or license hit. And if it happen the same Anne to dye &c. before any carnall knowlich &c. that then ward and marriage of the same Erle and of his brother, be sold &c. and the money thereof comyng be employed &c. for the performing of this my will, and for the wele of my soul. And if it happen the said Erle, or after his dethe, the said Thomas after that he be married to the said Anne &c. to disagree to the said marriage at such age as they may so do by the law &c. then I wolle that myne executors giff to my said daughter x pounds &c. for her marriage &c. Also I bequethe to my said doghter plate to the value of fifty marks and beddyng chamberyns and other stuff for her convenient to the value of c marks &c. whereof I wolle that she be of the age of eighteen yeres. Also where I have the ward and marriage of Edward Trussell I wolle &c. that it be sold and the money &c. employed to the performing of this my will, and for the wele of my soule &c. and if my brother Sir John Donne wole be the said ward I will that he be preferred therein before any other &c. by xl pounds. Also I wolle that my feoffees of the manors of Bewyk and Thurkelby in Holdernes, in the county of Yorke Bolton Percy in the shire of the city of Yorke the manor of Barowe and the Hundred of Framland in the countie of Leicestre, the manor called Everingham fee in the county of Nottingham, the manor of Fynchley in the county of Middlesex, the rape of Hastyns in the county of Sussex &c. shall suffer myne executors to take the issues &c. thereof, &c. unto the time &c. that they have performed this my will and payd my debts &c. Also I will that my feoffees of the manors of Larnley and Blesby in the county of Nottingham, the manor of Drakenage in the countie of Warwick, the mauor of Sutton in Holdernes &c. make estate thereof to Richard my son when he cometh to the age of eighteen years, to have, to hym and to the heirs of his body &c. the remaynder to the heirs male of my fader's body &c.; the remaynder &c. to my right heirs. In likewise &c. of the manor of Arnall in the countie of Nottingham, Flekney, Little Asheby and Brentyngthorp

in the countie of Leicestre &c. make estate thereof to my said son William when he cometh to the age of eighteen yeres &c. to the heires male of his body, and the remainder to the said Richard, my son, and to the heirs male of his body; the remaynder to the heires male of my fader's body &c. the remaynder of my right heires &c. Also I wolle that every of my said two sons have plate to the value of c pounds. and either of them chamberyng, beddyng and other stuff convenient for them &c. to the value of c pounds, &c. Also I wolle that my feoffees make estate to Katharine my wife, immediately after my decease, of the manors of Stoke Daubeney, Welberston and Sutton, in the countie of Northampton, the manor of Edmonton in Totenham in the county of Middlesex, of Kerby, Lubbersthorpe, Braunston Bagworth Thorneton and the Parke of Bagworth and Kerby, in the countie of Leicestre, of the manors of Welborne and Aslakby in the shire of Lincoln &c. for terme of her life, &c. so that the said Katherine &c. release her dower in all the sayd manors of Bewyck Thurcelby, &c. and lands before assigned to perform my will &c. Also I, in most humble wise, beseche the King's grace to take the governannce of my son and heir and, as straitly as to me is possible, I charge myne heir on my blessing, to be faythfull and true to the King's grace, to my Lord Prince and their heires, &c. Also I will that myne executors in the dispossition of such goods as in generalitie in this my will be assigned to be disposed by theym, for the wele of my sowle, have tenderly in remembrance and preferment the said Abby of Sulby, to the intent that they the more especially shall pray for the sowles of me, my wife, and the sowles afore reherced. And for the performyng and executyng of this my last will and testament I ordeyne and make myn executors Kateryn myn entirely beloved wyffe, myn eldest son Sir Edward Hastyns Knight, Sir William Husee Knight, Cheffe Juge of the King's Benche, Richard Pigotte one of the King's Serjeants at the Lawe, and, for thayr labours and pyne that they shall have for and aboute the performyng and executyng this my last will and testament, I wyle that Sir William Huse and Richard Pigotte have either of thaym xl pounds of lawful money of England, praying and requyryng my wyffe and eldest son, and the said Huse and Pygotte, to take the charge upon thaym to see the execucion of this my last will and testament, after the true intent thereof, as myspeccyall trust is in thaym, and as they wyll answer before God. And, for the more perfite and sure execucion of this my said last wyll and testament, I ordayne and make the ryght reverend fader in God, John Bishop of Ely my good lord, and also John Lord Dynham my good lord and cosyn surveyors of this my said last wyll and testament, humbly and most hertyly besechyng their good lordships to take the labor and charge therof upon thaym, in whom I put my syngular and speccyal trust, for the wele of my sowle, and for thayr labor I will that eyther of my said lords have xl marks of lawful money of England. And in wnesse that thys ys my last will and testament I did wryte thys clause and last artycle with myn own hand at London the xxvii day of June, the yere of our Lord God above said, and in the yere of my Soverayne Lord Kyng Edward IV. xxi. whose grace in the most humble wise I beseche to be good and tender and graycious lord to my sowle, to be good and graycious soverayne lord to my wyfe, my son and myn eyre, and to all my children, whom I charge upon my blessing to be true sojetts and servants to you my Soverayne Lord under God, and to your eyre, and to all your issue, and beseche you Soverayne Lord also to be

good Lord to my surveyors and executors as my most syngular trust is in your good grace before all eyrthly greatness, as wele for my wyfe and chyldren as to my executors and surveyors in executing this my last wyll and testament. Signed with my hand and scaled with the seal of myn armys the daye and yere aforesad."

## APPENDIX II.

## WILL OF KATHERINE LADY HASTINGS.

IN Dei nomine, amen. The twenty-second day of November, in the year of our Lord, 1503, and in the nyneteenth yere of the reigne of King Henry VII. I Katherine Lady Hastings, widow, late the wife of William, late Lord Hastings, having perfect memory and hole mind, considering that nothing is more certain than death, and therefore at all times willing to be ready unto death, and to look for the time of the coming of the same, in such wise, that death stele not upon unprepared, whereunto it is required, not onely disposition ghostly, but also of such goods as God of his unmeasurable goodness hath lent me the use and exercise of; intending through his especial grace, so to passe by these temporals and momentary goods, that I shall not lose eternal, make, ordaine, and declare this my testament and last will, in manner and form following: First, I most humbly bequeath my soul to God Almighty, my Redeemer, to our blessed Lady Saint Mary the Virgin, and to all the company of Heaven, and my body to be buried in our Lady Chappell, within the parish church of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, between the image of our Lady and the place assigned for the Vicar's grave. Item, for my mortuary, I bequeath according to my custome. Item, bequeath to the Cathedral Church of Lincoln, twenty pounds. Item, I bequeath to the high alter in the parish church of Ashby above said, xx s. Item, I will that a priest be found to sing in the said chappell for my fadyr, and my Lady my modar, my Lord my husband's soules, and in special for those soules which I am most bounden to cause to be prayed for, the space of three years next ensuing, after my departing, and the said priest to receive yearly, during the said three years, for his stipend, six pounds, and if my priest, Sir William Englundel be contented to pray for me in the said place, and for the above said, then I woll that he be admitted to the said service before any other priest. And I bequeath unto the said chappell, a suit of vestments of bawdekyn, red and green, and my little gilded chalice, a printed mass book, and a printed portoons, which I will my said priest have the use of, for the said three years, at the times when he shall be disposed to say his service divine in the said place. Item, I bequeath to the said church of Aslby, seven surples, to be occupied and used by the ministers that shall doe service in the said church. Item, I woll that my masse covered with red velvet that is occupied in the chappell, be given to a poor church after the direction of myn executors. Item, I woll that the Colledge of Newarke, of Leicestre, have to them and their successors for ever, all my lands and tenements, with all their appertenances in the townes and feilds in Benton, Overy,

and Wigston, in the countie of Leicestre aforesaid, which I lately purchased of Elizabeth Kent, widdow, for a yerely obit to be kept in the said college for my Lord my fadyr, my Lady my moder, my Lord my husband, and for me for ever. Item, where I owe unto Cecilie, Marquesse Dorset, certain sumes of money which I have borrowed of her at diverse times, as appeareth by bills indented thereof made, I woll that the said Cecilie, in full contentation of all such sumes of money as I owe unto her, have my bed of arres, tittor, testor, and counterpane, which she late borrowed of me, and over that, I will that she have my tabulet of gold that she now hath in her hands for a pledge, and three curtains of blew sarcionett and a traverse of blew sarcionett, and three quishions of counterfeit arres, with imagery of women, a long quishion, and two short, of blew velvet, also two carpets. Item, I bequeath to myne especial good Lord George, Earl of Shrewsbury, a cope of cloth of gold, of white damasce, with torpens cloth of gold and velvet upon velvet. Item, a vestment of purpure velvet, with a crucifix and images of St. Peter and St. John, embroidered upon that oon of them. I bequeath to my Lady Shrewsbury, a cope of cloth of gold with lillyes embroidered, and that oon with the image of the Trinitie, with a frontail for an alter. Item, my Prymar, which is now in the keeping of my Lady Fitz Hugh, also two cushions of counterfeit, and with imagery of women; a long quishon, and two short, of blew velvet. Item, a long covering for a cushion of purpure velvet, and oon short, also two carpets. Item, I bequeath to my son, Edward Lord Hastings, a suite of vestments, now being in the hands of the abbot of Darley, for a sume of twenty pounds, which suite I will be pledged oute of my proper goods, also an ouche, being in the keeping of my son William, also an image of our Lady, now being in the hands of my Lady Marquesse. Item, a salt of gold, being now in the hands of my daughter Mary, Lady Hungerford; alsoe a faire Prymar, which I had by the yefture of Queen Elizabeth. Alsoe where my seyd son oweth unto me for certain charges, which I took upon me for his sake, an hundred markes as appeareth by his writing thereof made, I considering the kinde demeanor of my said son at this time, in granting of a certain annuity, remit and pardon unto him the said hundred markes due to me by the bequest of William Strole, in part of payment for my debts, and for my servants at the next audit. Alsoe I bequeath unto my said son, two coverings for quishions of counterfeit arres with imagery of women. Item, two quishions of counterfeit arres with my Lords armes, alsoe two pare of curtains of green tartarin. Item, two short quishions of tawney velvet; also a long quishion, oon short, of crimson velvet; also such pieces of bawdekyn, with a frontaile of cloth of gold of blew sattin, as hath been accustomed to be occupied about the sepulchre of our Lord; also a cloth of bawdekyn with a frontaile of red bawdekyn for the font. Item, an old hanging of counterfeit arres of Knollys which now hangeth in the hall, and all such hangyngs of old bawdekyn or lynen paynted, as now hang in the chappell, with the alter clothes, and oon super altare, with oon of the vestments that now be occupied in the chappell. Alsoe, all such pieces of hangings as I have of blew and better blew, with my Lord's armes, with banquyrs and cupboard clothes of the same sort. Alsoe three barrehides for carriage, and two barrehides for clothe sekks. Also the third part of my hey that is at Kerby, and all suche tymber as I have there. Also all the bedding that he hath of mine, which late was

at London, reserved only two fedur-bedds and a cowcher, that I wol Richard my son have, and also two carpets. Item bequeath to my sons Richard and William four coverings for quishions, with my lerrs armys of counterfeit arres. Also two hangings for an aultar, with the twelve Apostles embroidered with gold, with a crucifix, and the Salutation of our Lady. Alsoe all the pieces of hangings of verd that now hang in my chamber and in the parlour; alsoe all my stuffe of napree pertaining to the pantree; alsoe two pair of blankets and two pair of fustians; alsoe four pair of fine sheets; alsoe my stuffe of kitchin, as platters, dishes, sawcers, broaches, potts, and pans: alsoe all my hey that is in Lubbershorp, provided that William have more part of the hey; also two parts of the hey at Kerby; also two vestiments, oon that hath been accustomed to be occupied in my high house, and oon that's occupied in the chappell; two masse books, two super alters; oon of white to Richard, oon of jeth to William, two coporauxes; alsoe to Richard foure pair of brigaunters, and to William two payre, and to them both thirteen saletts. Item to my son William all such stuffe of bedding as he hath now in his chamber of mine, that is to say, a feller tester, counterpoint of roosemary, a quilt happing, a white mantell, a white square happing, a square happing, white and black. Alsoe to my son William, all such plate as was in the hands of John Holme, with that he pay unto the said John, at the feast of St. Andrew next coming, fifteen pounds, in part of payment of a greater sume, and over that to doe such charitable deeds of almes as I have appointed to be done by him. Also I bequeethe to my son William four fedur beds and couchers, and to Richard two fedur beds that he hath, a coucher that was at London, a coucher that's here, and a fedur bedde. Item, I bequeath unto them all the hangings of saye which be at Kerbye now as appeareth by the inventory thereof made, and I woll that William have foure paire of sheets of such sorte as he now occupyeth. Item to my Lady Margaret, a payre of little salts of silver and parcell gylt. To my sister Fitzhugh oon of my standing cupps; alsoe a bedd of tymbre; and such pledges as she hath of mine, I woll they be pledged out by William, and he hereto have them. Item to my daughter Hungerford, my part of a crosse, which she hath in her keeping for a pledge. Item to my son George Hastings, a good fedur bedde, a boulster, a pair of blankets, a paire of fustians, and a pair of fine sheets. Item to my nephew William Ferrers, to my niece, his wife, a fedur bedde, a boulster, a blanket, a chike happing, and old counterpoint sillor and tester, which they now occupy in their chamber. Alsoe foure payre of sheets, and oon of my finest gownes. Item to my Lady Mary a ring, which William Bamsell hath for a pledge, to be pledged out of my goods. Item to my niece Brokesby three payre sheets of and oon of my best gownes, my gownes to be given among my other gentlewomen, and oon to Mrs. Booth, and oon to Margaret Cooke, and oone old gowne to moder Ceall, of Leicestre; and oon gown cloth of my groome's livery to Richard Twhytull. Item to Sir Christopher Hayward, my preest, in monie or stuff, whether he woll, ten marks, towards such charges of reparations of his chauncell as he shall have. Item I bequeath to the same Christopher Hayward a vestment of crimson velvet, and the crosse of black cloth of gold. Item I woll that he entre, immediately after my departing, into the ferme of Kerby appertaining unto him, and to take all such fruits as have growne this year, with

titlies, oblations, and other profits belonging to the said ferme, and over that he to perceive in money fifty-three shillings foure-pence, and to content himself for the rent of the said ferme for this year, and to pay unto the preest of Kirby his full wages unto the annuntiation of our Lady next coming. Also I woll that my household be fully contented, and paid for their whole quarter's wages, to be finished at Christmas next; and all such wages that has been unpaid due unto them and over this I woll that every oon of my gentlemen shall have thirteen shillings four-pence, and every yeoman ten shillings, and every groon six shillings eight-pence. Item I woll that John Lolls have twenty pounds. Item bequethe to Mr. Doctor Christopherson oon of my best horses, also a gowne of my fine black. Item I woll that such hangings or bedding as shall be sold for the payment of my debts and performance of my will, be refused of my Lady Marquesse, and of my son Edward Lord Hastings, before they be any parcell to be sold to any other body, so that the said Lady Marquiss and Lord Hastings woll give as much for the said as any other woll doe, and make as quick payment. The residue of my goods not bequeathed, my debts fully paid, with all my cattall, somes of monie, rents, annuities, debts, and arrearages, which it shall happen me to have, and to be possessed of, or due unto me, by any grant of lawfull meane at the time of my departing, I woll be equally divided between my sons Richard and William; and for the true execution and performance of this my present testament and last will, I make and ordaine Cercell, Marquis Dorset, widdow George Earl of Shrewsbury, and Anne his wife, my daughter, Edward Lord Hastings, Richard Hastings, and William Hastings, esquires, my sons, myne executors, most humbly beseeching and praying them, in the way of charity, to take the peyne and labour for the true performance of the same, as my special trust is in them.

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### APPENDIX III.

#### WILL OF SIR EDWARD HASTINGS.

IN the Name of God Amen. The 4th day of November the yere of our Lord 1506. I Edward Hastings Knight, Lord Hastings and Hungerford, hole in mynde, make my testament and last will, in manner and forme following &c. My body to be buried yf I depart this world in London, or within twenty miles of the same, in the Colege of Wynd-sore, nyghe to the tombe of my Lord my father (whose soule God pardon) yf it may be conveniently, else I remitte the same to the discretion of myne executors &c. by the oversight of the Erle of Shrewsbury, Lord Steward of the King's most honourable household, or of my two brethren, yf they be at my said departing. Also I wolle that the conveyance of my body to my buriall, with all the observances and other things pertaining to the same, and also to my months mind and yere day, be ordered and done by my said executors or other above rehersed. Also I woll that an honest preste and virtuous be provided

to syng and pray for my soul, and the soules of my father and mother, and all other my frends, with the soules of them that I am bounden to pray for, and all Christen soules in the chapell or church where my body shall be interred, by the space of seven years next ensuing my said departing, and the same prest oons in every day shall say Placebo, Dirige, and commendations, with mass of Requiem, on the morrow, for my soule and the soules above rehersed; and other orisons and prayers as my said executors shall appoint, and that the said prest have yerely for the doing of the same observances, during the same seaven yeare, ten marks. Also I woll that my brother Richard Hastings have oone annuyte of xx marks by yere out of my lordship of Thornteton and Bagworth, not oonly to hin but also to my lady his wyff, or to the longer lyver of them, to be made sure as the learned counsell of my sed brother can devise. Also I woll that my brother William Hastings shall have and enjoy the offices, and stewardships, and bailyfwyke, of my lordships of Thornteton and Bagworth, with the herbage yielding account of the same; to have and occupie to him and to his deputies, with all such fees and profits as to the same office in anywise appertain or belong for terme of his lyff oonely. And whereas I have granted unto my said brother William oon annuyte of xx marks be yere to be percevyd of my lands in the North parts, as by my letters patents to him made of the same more pleynty it doth appere, I wool and put it to be in choyse of my said brother whether he woll have the said annuyte in the place appoynted in my said letters patents; els my said recoverers and feoffees to make unto hym an estate or graunt thereof, as by his counsell lerned shall be thought good, for terme of his lyff out of such of my lands as he shall thinke most profitable &c. Also whereas my said lord and father, whose soule God pardon, hath taken a place within the Friers at Calais for certen yeres, to hym and to his heires, I woll that the said friers and their successors saying yerely for evermore for my soule an obite upon the same day it shall please Almighty God to call me to hys mercy, that is to say a solempne dirge over even, and masse upon the morrow, with commendations, and oons in the week for evermore, one frier say Dirige and commendations, with masse of Requiem, upon the morrow, for the soules of my said lord and father, and me, and also to perform and fulfil certen masses to be said accordyng to the graunt made by the provinciall, and the general chapter of their order at Gippiwic, as it appeareth by a bill sent unto me of the same that then they shall have and enjoy the said place to them most profite and advantage, any condition made unto my said lord and father notwithstanding, &c.

He willed lastly, that his feoffees should make sale of the manors of Welford, county of Northampton, Lubbersthorpe, Wyston, and Braunston, county of Leicester, as also of Bewike, Alreborow, and Slyngerby, county of York, to pay his debts and perform this his will.

THE END.





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